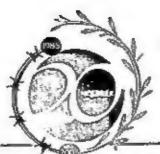
METRO/AIS

Manila court issues hold order versus Jaylo

■ WORLD/A9

Turk who attempted to kill Pope John Paul II freed after 20 years in jail



■ WORLD / A7 362 pilgrims dead in hajj stampede in Saudi Arabia

■ PROPERTY/B2-I

By Blanche S. Rivera

Property forecast: More investments from OFWs to continue in '06

Fishers nix DENR opening

coastal areas to investors

FISHERPOLK AND ENVIRONMENTALISTS

yesterday expressed fears that a new order

from the Department of Environment and Nat-

ural Resources allowing the 25-year lease of

idle coastal areas throughout the country to

big investors could displace small fishermen.

All in the family: 2 sons tagged in Iloilo murders

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr. PDI Visavas Bureau

ILOILO CITY-POLICE ON FRIDAY TAGGED Archie and John Michael Tan, sons of slain businessman Francisco Tan, for the murder of their father, stepmother and 6-year-old half sister on Jan. 8.

Saturday, January 14, 2006

7 sections / Vol. 21 / No. 37

website: www.lnq7.net

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph

FVR sticks to ultimatum

JDV behind 'no-election' provision, critics say

By Michael Lim Ubac

ADMINISTRATION AND OPPOSItion members of the House of Representatives yesterday pointed to Speaker Jose de Venecia as the brains behind the proposal to scrap the 2007 elections (No-El).

Negros Oriental Rep. Jacinto "Jing" Paras, Akbayan party-list Rep. Etta Rosales and a Lakas lawmaker who asked to remain anonymous told the lnquirer that De Venecia had a hand in the Malacañang-created Consultative Commission's call for the scrapping of next year's polls to pave the way for a unicameral parliament in 2010.

De Venecia phoned the INQUIRER last night to deny the accusation.

"The No-El proposal is clearly a moral issue for congressmen, senators, governors, mayors and councilors whose term will be extended up to 2010," he said.

"There's a major conflict of interest. We can't take [the] high moral ground with moral issues hanging," the Speaker said, stressing that he and President Macapagal-Arroyo had nothing to do with it.

He noted that the No-El was "approved overwhelmingly" by the ConCom members, with only two or three members going against the majority decision.

A lawmaker belonging to Lakas claimed that De Venecia called up several members of ConCom "and prevailed upon them to insert the No-El provision."





Says no deal made for GMA to stay until 2010

By Cynthia D. Balana and Tonette Orejas PDI Central Luzon Desk

THEY COULD NOT EVEN AGREE on what they agreed on. If any.

Former President Fidel Ramos vesterday stood firm on his position that President Macapagal-Arroyo should cut her term by 2007, disputing claims that a formula had been struck allowing her to stay on until 2010 but with clipped powers.

Ramos sent out this message through his media officer, Ed Malay, to correct "inaccuracies" about what transpired during his dinner meeting with Ms Arroyo at her Forbes Park residence on Wednesday night.

Sources in Ramos' own Lakas-CMD party and in Malacañang previously said Ms Arroyo had agreed on a "win-win" formula under which she would hang on to the presidency with diminished powers until 2010.

A statement sent to the Inquirer by Malay said Ramos "denied all claims that appeared in the media, stressing that many of these were inaccurate."

Malay said this was Ramos' reply to inquiries about what he and Ms Arroyo had discussed.

The statement said Ramos was sticking to his position for the country to shift from a presidential to parliamentary form of govern-

ment by June 2007. "This means that President Arroyo has to FVR STICKS/A6

Arrest order out but GIs' custody in doubt

By Tonette Orejas and Ansbert Joaquin PDI Central Luzon Desk

OLONGAPO CITY-AN ARREST warrant was issued yesterday morning for the four US Marines charged with the Nov. 1 rape of a Filiping woman at the Subic Bay Freeport, but their Filipino coaccused was cleared.

While Judge Renato Dilag of the Olongapo Regional Trial Court ordered the immediate arrest of Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpentier and Lance Corporals

Daniel Smith, Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis, he said their Filipino driver, Timoteo Soriano

Jr., was "free as a bird." Dilag said he found "no probable cause" to indict as a co-conspirator the 32-year-old driver of the van where the alleged rape occurred.

Reiterating his earlier statements, Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the warrant issued by Dilag was no guarantee that the Philippines would automatically have custody of the accused.

BIG MONEY PAG PINOY AKO, PINOY TAYO!

2 alien 'house mates' want to become Pinoys

By Leila B. Salaverria

THESE ALIENS WANT TO BE-

come Pinoys. Reality show contestants Sam

Milby and Uma Barum want to be recognized as Filipino citizens, claiming that one of their parents is Filipino, according to Immigration Commissioner Alipio Fernan-

Pinoy Big Brother had nothing to do with it; but the BI did.

The bureau yesterday fined Milby and Barum P40,000 and P10,000, respectively, as aliens working without permits in the country. The two were also granted special work permits, valid

for three months, so they

could now pursue local show business ventures.

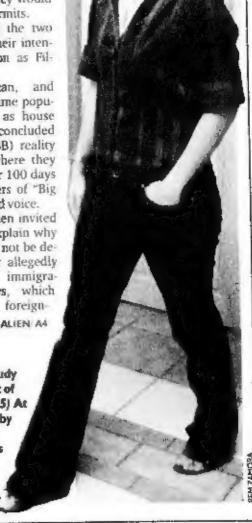
But if Milby and Barum were recognized as locals, they would no longer need work permits.

Fernandez said that the two had already signified their intention to seek recognition as Fil-

Milby, an American, and Barum, an Israeli, became popular during their stint as house mates in the recently concluded Pinoy Big Brother (PBB) reality show on ABS-CBN, where they holed up in a house for 100 days and followed the orders of "Big



SHOOTING STARS. Judy Ann Santos strides out of court. (Story on Page A5) At left American Sam Milby (left) and Israeli Uma Barum pay their fines and get their work



Noli breaks silence: I am my own man

By Cynthia D. Balana

BREAKING HIS SILENCE ON THE axing of "Magandang Gabi, Bayan" (MGB) by the TV network ABS-CBN, Vice President Noli de Castro yesterday said he was his "own man."

He said the reported rift with the network's owners, the Lopezes, only proved that he was not their puppet.

"I am not a Lopez boy," De Castro declared in an interview with

I am just because I worked there (at ABS-CBN) for a long time. I'm my own man. Itong mga pangyayaring ito ay nagpapatunay lamang na hindi ako tao ng mga Lopez.

Asked to elaborate, De Castro said he had refused to talk about the cancellation of MGB because he believed he had nothing to ex-

"It was they who pulled MGB off the air. Why should I be the one to explain? It is up to the peo-

AND DESCRIPTION OF THE PROPERTY OF THE PROPERT

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cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers.

FORECAST: Northern and Southern Luzen, Visayas and Mindenao

will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and

isolated thunderstorms. The rest of Luzon will have parily cloudy to

Army chief rejects talks with Reds

General Esperon: We'll fight them and the plans are laid out

THE PHILIPPINE ARMY CHIEF YESTERDAY Muslim separatists on the trou-ment activities to check the exruled out peace talks with communist rebels, signaling the government was focused on eliminating a long-term security threat and using troops to weed out the roots of insurgency.

Lt.Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, commander of the 70,000-member ground forces, said the military was ready to do battle with New People's Army (NPA) guerrillas and was also focusing on development work in poor rural villages to check the expansion of rebel influence.

"We'll fight them and the plans are laid out," Esperon, wearing camouflage fatigues, said in an interview at an army fortress near Manila's business district.

"The President has decided that we do not go on peace talks with them. They take advantage of the democratic space. They take advantage of the security and immunity guarantees. They roam and propagandize, arouse, organize and mobilize."

The Philippines, the United States' closest security ally in Southeast Asia, estimates the NPA membership at 7,000, down from a peak of more than 25,000 in the mid-1980s.

The insurgency, which has killed an estimated 40,000 people, is active in 69 of 79 provinces and has stunted rural development by terrorizing villages and businesses with violence and "revolutionary war taxes."

"The talks will not give us anything," said Esperon, adding the supporting Was Malaysian-brokered peace negotiations now in progress with the largest Muslim rebel group, the Moro Islamic Liberation Front

Esperon said he was more confident a peace deal would be signed with Islamic rebels, reducing threats from separatist guerrillas and other Muslim militant groups with ties to al Qaida and its Southeast Asian franchise, Jemaah Islamiyah.

"The matter of secession is not so much a problem," said the seasoned intelligence and combat officer, who spent most of his career fighting communist rebels and

bled southern island of Min-

A truce with the MILF has held since July 2003 and further cooperation with the Muslim rebels under a peace agreement would further isolate homegrown groups such as Abu Sayyaf that have been linked to al Qaida and Jemaah Islamiyah.

Last October, the government revoked the immunity that had applied to about 100 communist members engaged in peace negotiations, more than a year after Norwegian-brokered talks were

Communist leaders said they would not return to negotiations unless the government agreed to help persuade the United States and some European governments to remove them from lists of ter-

Apart from stepping up offensives against rebels, including the recruitment of 7,000 extra troops this year, Esperon said army engineers were focusing on 500 impoverished villages across the country to build roads, schools and artesian wells.

"That's not exactly the job of the military," he said, adding the army would take part in develop- that should do it."

passion of rebel influence from the countryside, reversing the Maoist strategy of waging protracted war by encircling cities.

Esperon said the government was spending P5 billion of its P35 billion in savings last year to bring development to remote villages with a known rebel pres-

The military was alarmed by rising NPA violence during the last four months of 2005, he said, adding soldiers had been distracted by a political crisis spawned by allegations of election fraud and corruption against President Macapagal-Arroyo.

Reviewing photographs taken during political protests in Metro Manila last year, Esperon said the army learned NPA rebels had infiltrated the crowd and may have brought in "armed members."

Commanders were also guarding their own ranks due to persistent efforts by Arroyo's political foes to convince the military to withdraw support from her administration, he said.

"It's distracting us," Esperon said. "But we'll just stick to our constitutional mandate. As long as we get out of partisan politics,



ESPERON: The communist rebels are taking "advantage of the

US to give \$100,000 reward to Abu informant in Zambo on Monday

THE US GOVERNMENT WILL hand over a US\$100,000 reward to a Filipino who helped authorities capture a member of the ai-Qaida-linked Abu Sayyaf group last year, the American Embassy sáid-Friday.

The money will be given to a

stood against terrorism" in ceremonies Monday at the military's Southern Command headquarters in Zamboanga city, the embassy said in a statement, without identifying the recipient.

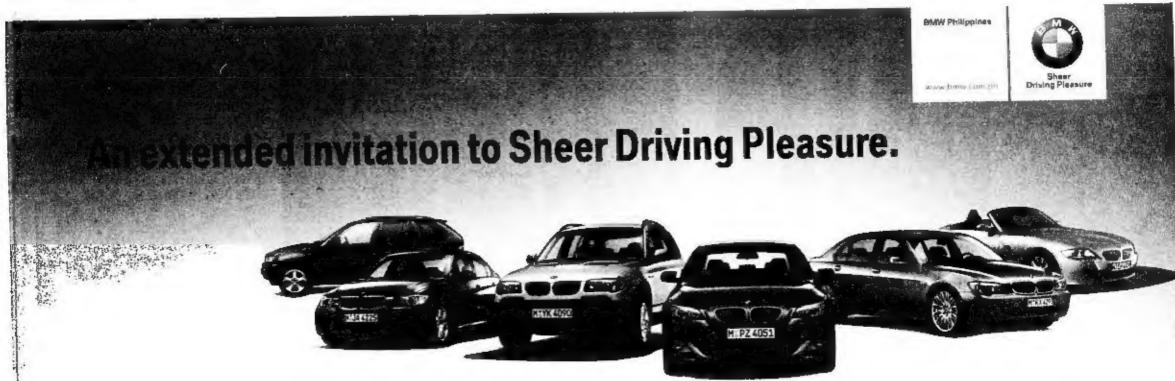
Sayyaf member, Toting Hanno, is suspected of taking part in the abduction of three Americans missionary couple Martin and Gracia Burnham, and Guillermo Sobero - from a Philippine re-Embassy spokesman Matthew sort in May 2001. Sobero was lat- year on an island off Zamboanga.

"courageous Individual who Lussenhop said the captured Abu er killed and a year later Martin Burnham died in a military rescue while his wife was wounded.

Hanno was arrested in May 2002, but escaped from the Basilan provincial jail a year later. He was recaptured in January last ready paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in rewards for the capture and killings of Abu Sayyaf members and leaders, including about US\$359,600 to three men who helped locate Hamsiraji Sali, a key Abu Sayyaf commander who

The US government has al- was killed in a clash with government troops in 2004.

US counterterrorism training of Filipino troops has been credited with their battlefield successes against the Abu Sayyaf. The group is on a US list of terrorist organizations.







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Ban lewd shows on cable TV, solon urges

By Philip C. Tubeza

APPALLED BY THE BLATANT display of bare breasts and buttocks on prime time television, a pro-administration lawmaker yesterday urged the National Telecommunications Commission to revoke the franchise of the Lopez-owned cable television company SkyCable.

Pampanga Rep. Prancis L. Nepomuceno, chair of the House committee on civil service and professional regulation, urged the NTC and the Movies and Television Review and Classification Board to stop the "obscene showing" of a program hosted by American Jerry Springer on Channel 53 of SkyCable.

He said the program, aired at around 1:30 p.m. on Jan. 8, showed a number of American women pulling up their blouses to display their huge breasts and men pulling down their pants to show their buttocks to the viewing public.

Nepomuceno, one of the country's most vocal fighters against smut and obscenity, said government regulators should impose sanctions on Skycable for "promoting obscenity."

Though the scenes were blurred, still we know that obscene acts were committed by the program and should not be allowed to be aired at prime time in cable television," Nepomuceno said in a statement.

He also criticized the showing of Blind Date in ETC, Channel 52 of SkyCable on Jan. 10 wherein women had very revealing attires; torrid French kissing, necking, and a macho dancer pushing his genitals to the breast of a woman.

Nepomuceno, an anti-pornography crusader, said the scenes of the show are not acceptable in Philippine setting which is downright vulgar and immoral.

Nepomuceno argued that unwholesome TV programs should be totally banned to protect children from their "serious psychological impact."

Abra town mayor slain by lone assassin

By Luige A. del Puerto and Artha Kira Paredes, PDI Northern Luxon Bureau

THE MAYOR OF A TOWN IN Abra was shot dead last night by a lone assassin while the official was watching a baskerball game, police said.

Mayor Marc Ysrael Bernos of La Paz died while being taken to a hospital in his town, said Chief Supt. Leonardo Dionisio, head of

the Cordillera Administrative Region Police.

He was the third opposition mayor killed in Abra since 2000.

"He was watching basketball. It was a town activity. Somebody appreched him from behind and shot him at the back," Dionisio told the incorner on the phone.

"He was brought to a hospital (in Bangued) but was pro-nounced dead on arrival," he

wound at the back of the head.

Abra police director Senior Supt. Marcelo Manalo said Bernos was shot at about 7:15 p.m. and died about 40 minutes

After shooting the mayor, the unidentified assassin kept on firing his gun, causing a stampede among people watching the

of La Paz's celebration on Jan. 24 of the Feast of Our Lady of Peace.

The police immediately secured the family of Bernos and set up checkpoints in an effort to catch the suspect.

As of press time, police were still talking to witnesses to try to get a clue on the gunman's

basketball tournament who was behind the killing or lf town. Luna is an ally of Bernos.

The mayor suffered a gunshot was organized by Bernos as part the gunman was a hired assassin. Early last year, Interior Secre-

tary Angelo Reyes sacked the entire Abra police force for their failure to go after private armed groups in the province.

Reyes also tried to broker peace between feuding politicians in the province.

Last year, there was also an attempt to assassinate another The police refused to speculate mayor, Cecilia Luna of Lagayan

China help sought vs dumped goods from mainland

By Lella B. Salaverria

THE BUREAU OF CUSTOMS wants China's help to stop the dumping of cheap goods from mainland China which are now flooding the country's markets, including bargain hunter's destinations like the 168 mall in Divisoria, and hurting local retailers.

Napoleon Morales said he plans to forge an agreement with China for the latter to provide customs officials with export documents so the country would be able to determine the proper customs valuations of and impose correct taxes on goods from China.

He said he plans to write the customs office in China through Commissioner its embassy in Manila to propose to seek its support for the under-

the arrangement.

"We can effectively collect more revenues from imports and prevent smuggling with the cooperation of the Chinese government," Morales said in a state-

Morales also met with the Federation of Filipino Chinese Chambers of Commerce Inc. (FFCCCI)

He noted that the proper assessment of import items, especially the massive shipments from China, is vital. It is also one of the measures that the Customs com-

missioner earlier said he plans to focus on in order to intensify revenue collection to meet the bureau's increased P192 billion target for 2006.

The undervaluation, if not emuggling, of goods from China is not only hurring Philippine business, but is also causing massive loss of revenues to the Philippine government," Morales said.

FFCCCI President Francis Chua vowed to assist the BOC in seeking an agreement with China on customs valuation, accordingto a BOC statement.

MILF guerrillas suspected behind sultan's murder

By Charlie C. Señase and Nash B. Maulana PDI Mindanao Bureau

COTABATO CITY - INVESTIGATORS suspect extremists belonging to the Moro Islamic Liberation Front were behind the fatal shooting of Maguindanao Sultan Amir Muhammad Baraguir, police said yesterday.

An officer who asked not to be identified said one of the reasons investigators believed MILF guerrillas might be behind the killing was Baraguir's opposition to the establishment of a Moro nation in Mindanao. He supposedly favored a United Nations-sponsored "decolonization of Maguindanao and Sulu" and the conversion of these provinces into two separate nations.

Baraguir, who would have turned 46 on Monday, was killed shortly before 7 p.m. on Wednesday as he and his party were returning home in Barangay Salimbao, Sultan Kudarat, Maguindanao, from an affair hosted by National Anti-

mzamin Ampatuan.

Baraguir's younger brother, Andy, was wounded in the attack, carried out by assailants on two motorcycles.

Recently installed as the 25th Sultan of Maguindanao, Baraguir was an advocate of moderation and tolerance. He was an expert on the Malay Muslim culture, especially on Maguindanao, and an analyst of global islamist and contemporary Muslim political trends. He wrote for the Inquirer's "Kris-Crossing Mindanao" column in 2002.

Eid Kabalu, MILP spokesperson, denied that the MILF was involved in the killing and said the insinuation was designed to derail peace talks with the government.

"We have no interest whatsoever in the sultanate system or in Baraguir because we are a revolutionary group," Kabalu said, adding the MILP was willing to assist the police in the investigation.

Senior Supt. Akmad Mamalinta, police director for the Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao police director, dismissed the MILF angle, citing a report from police in Sultan Kudarat that the Poverty Commission Chair Datu Za- killers belonged to the "underworld."

US Embassy closed on Monday

of the NTC to ban sex chats on ca- ed offices will be closed to the public on Jan. 16 is Martin Luther King Day, an Monday, Jan. 16, 2006, the US Embassy American holiday.

He, however, lauded the move THE US EMBASSY AND ITS AFFILIAT- announced in a press statement Friday.





RICE AND SHINE President Macapagal-Arroyo celebrates the centennial anniversary of Navotas town by launching another Tindahan Natin program and the Serbisyo Muna Caravan 7 at the San Jose Parish.

Now, it's subsidized drugs

By Nancy Carvajai

AFTER SUBSIDIZED RICE AND NOODLES, the government now plans to put medicines within the reach of poor Filipinos at half their regular prices.

Environment Secretary Michael Defensor made this announcement while accompanying President Macapagal-Arroyo during the inauguration of the first "Tindahan Pinoy" in Navotas yesterday morning.

"Unlike with rice and noodles where you need an ID from the Department of Social Welfare and Development to be allowed to buy, in the discounted medicines, it's open to the public," Defensor said.

He said that the President had allocated P500 million for the "Half-Priced Medicines for the Poor Project." For the first month, Defensor said, the President would release P100 million, then 200 million in February and P300 million in March. "To sustain the project, the money from sales

must be rolled back," Defensor said, adding that the project would first be tested in Metro Manila before being expanded to the provinces.

He said the Philippine International Trading Corp. was negotiating with pharmaceutical companies in India and China for the procurement of low-priced medicines, which would be sold only through local government health centers or any local organization.

neap food an afterthought

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

PRESIDENT MACAPAGAL-ARROYO'S PLAN to use part of the P35 billion economic pumppriming fund to subsidize rice and instant noodles for the poor is turning out to have been a knee-jerk reaction to reports of increasing hunger among Filipinos instead of a deliberate decision based on careful study.

Budget Secretary Romulo Nerl revealed that the P35 billion was intended principally to bankroll infrastructure programs and low-interest loans for small traders. If any government money was to be spent for rice and instant noodles, "it would be a modest amount," he added.

President Arroyo announced yesterday that at least P500 million or 1.4 percent of the P35 billion pump-priming fund has been earmarked for the National Food Authority, which has been tasked to buy the rice and instant noodles.

"The distribution of cheap rice and noodles is not a dole-out, we are selling these at low

prices of P18 per kilo for rice and P4.25 per pack for noodles because these are the best way to solve the hunger in our country," the President said during the inauguration of the "Tindahan Natin," which would sell the subsidized goods to indigent communities.

The President announced her plan to sell more subsidized rice and noodles after a survey showed that nearly 1 out of 5 Filipinos had nothing to eat for at least one day in the last three months.

The President said she would get the money from the economic pump-priming fund, but Neri said that the fund had no provision for rice and noodle subsidies.

Neri identified the sources of the P35 billion pump-priming fund as follows: P10 billion from the National Development Co.; P10 billion from the Development Bank of the Philippines and Land Bank of the Philippines; P10 billion from internal revenue allocation to be refunded by the government this year; and P5 billion from the unspent portion of last year's budget.



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All in the family: 2 sons tagged in Iloilo murders

From page A1

In a two-page complaint filed before the floilo City Prosecutor's Office, the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Western Visayas filed two counts of murder and one count of parricide against Archie, 23, and John Michael, 18.

The brothers are Tan's sons from a previous relationship.

"It was a well-planned, well-executed and premeditated criminal offense," Supt. Renato Gumban, CIDG director for Western Visayas, told reporters yester-

Gumban said Archie was driven to kill his father and stepmother because he wanted to take over the multimillion-peso family business. He said John Michael acted as accomplice.

The Tan family owns the Crown Agro Chemical, which is a chain of stores selling pesticides, fertilizers and other agricultural products.

Other children unhurt

The 52-year-old businessman was found dead inside his bedroom at the two-story family mansion in Molo district here before dawn on Monday. Also found dead were his wife Cynthia Zayco-Tan, 37, and their 6-year-old daughter Kathy.

All the victims died from several stab wounds in the chest. The couple's five other children and Francisco's aunt, businesswoman Conchita Tan, were unhurt.

The brothers earlier told investigators that they found the bodies of their father, stepmother and half-sister when they came home at around 3 a.m. after sneaking out of their house for a night out.

But police said the evidence they gathered showed that the brothers were in the house when the crime was committed.

He said evidence gathered by a combined team of investigators from various police units and agencies "point to (the brothers) as the perpetrators."

15 witnesses

. The evidence was also supported by testimonies of around 15 witnesses, including the family's 'security guard and household staff, as well as crime laboratory results and autopsy reports, said Gumban.

"We're very sure it was not [because of) robbery," he said.

Based on testimonies of witnesses, Gumban said the brothers were "angry" at their father and stepmother.

Cynthia allegedly earned the ire of Archie because she stopped him from owning his own business, said Gumban.

Investigators believed Kathy, who was sleeping with her parents, was killed because she saw the crime and could identify her brothers.

Gumban said they were still gathering more evidence to determine if there were other persons involved in the crime.

The police will also request the Bureau of Immigration to issue a hold-departure order against the

Brothers' alibi

The police investigation backed the claim of the brothers that they sneaked out of their residence by jumping over their house's concrete fence at around 12:45 a.m. of

The boys said they went to the Calzada bar then to Camp Jefferson bar and to the Caltex Starmart convenience store before returning to their house at around 3

"We proved that they went out but our evidence showed they were present during the commission of the crime," Gumban said in a telephone inter-

Lawyer's statement

He said the autopsy reports showed the victims were killed between 7 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. of

Lawyer Leonardo Jiz, the Tan family lawyer, said the brothers were "saddened" with the filing of the complaint against them.

"They could not believe that they would be accused when they are the ones grieving over the death of family members," he told the INQUIRER in a phone inter-

Jiz said the family, based on its own investigation, did not believe the brothers were involved

in the crime. "Ms Conchita Tan (who had raised Francisco when he was orphaned as a young boy) loves all her grandsons," he said.

But Jiz said the family matriarch "is willing to do everything to find the killers regardless of who they are."

He said the family would continue to cooperate with the police and follow any order of the courts. The boys had also assured From page Al him that they would not leave the country and would face the

The boys also wanted the in-



SCENE OF THE CRIME is the palatial home of Francisco Tan and his family in Molo District in Iloilo City. CIDG operatives investigate the alleged entry point of the suspects beyond the trees and the guard ARNOLD ALMACANIPOLVISAYAS BUREAU

inside job because they did not vestigation to continue despite lice should not stop looking for find any sign of forcible entry in Police were considering it an the house, which is enclosed by a

FAST FACTS 2 sensational parricide cases

Menendez brothers

On Aug. 20, 1989, brothers Lyle and Erik Menendez (then 21 and 17 years old respectively) shot and killed their parents Jose and Mary Louise Menendez inside their Beverly Hill mansion. Prosacutors said the brothers were motivated by greed since they stood to inherit their parents' estate worth \$13 million.

Both were convicted of first degree murder on March 20, 1996 and are serving two consecutive life prison terms without parola.

Sef Gonzales

On July 10, 2001, Filipino migrants Teddy Gonzales, wife Mary Josephine and daughter Clodine were murdered inside their home in Sydney, Australia. They were all stabbed to death while the mother's and sister's throats had been slit. The lone survivor was the couple's then 20-year-old son Set, who was later arrested and charged for the killings on June 30, 2002. Prosecutors said he murdered his family to get his A\$1.5 million (US\$1 million) inheritance. Sef was found guilty on May 20, 2004 and sentenced to

concrete fence and has a security guard. The family also owns sev-

2 alien 'house mates' want to become Pinoys

From page A1

ers from engaging in any gainful activity in the country without a permit from the bureau.

against them. They said the po-

the filing of the complaint the killers.

Violators could be arrested and deported, said BI executive director Roy Almoro.

Fernandez said Milby and Barum, who met with him yesterday, were fined because they both filed late applications for a special working permit.

The applications, filed on their behalf by ABS-CBN assistant vice president Florida Tan, were submitted to the BI on Jan. 2, three weeks after PBB ended its 110-day run.

After the show concluded, Milby and Barum appeared on various ABS-CBN shows. Before joining PBB, Milby had worked as a model for a toothpaste brand. After he was booted out of the reality show, he bagged a modeling stint for a clothing company.

Not earning in PBB

Fernandez said the two media personalities said they did not apply for work permits when they joined the contest because they were not earning money at that

But after their "eviction" from

other shows, Fernandez pointed the labor department. out, hence the fines.

"Milby was meted a bigger fine because he had been working [here] longer. He appeared in a TV commercial even before he joined the reality show," Fernandez added. "They also stated some regrets. What is important is they follow immigration

Advisory to foreigners

Fernandez warned that the two would face stiffer sanctions if they repeated their offense. He advised all foreigners intending PBB, they had gone on to guest in to work here to get permits from

Milby and Barum's arrival at the BI office in Intramuros, Manila, yesterday morning stopped worked in some divisions as employees-men and women alike-whipped out their cameras and descended on

The employees followed them all the way to Fernandez's office, crowding around the commissioner's work area, displacing desks and chairs while they jostled and called out their names. They also hugged and kissed Milby and Barum and asked to pose with them for pictures.

Fishers fear displacement over DENR order

Environment Secretary Michael T. Defensor signed DENR Administrative Order No. 24 (DAO 24) on Nov. 17, 2005, opening up the Philippines' coastal areas while raising high-value fish. reviving the country's depleted mangrove forests. Big business and local governments could

now lease-for 25 years-some 266,000 sq. km. of the country's coastal areas for "non-extractive activities" like aquasilviculture (fisheries production and reforestation) and seaweed farming.

The DAO 24, whose objectives are to "encourage trade and investment in biodiversity" and "optimize the special use of degraded coastal areas" for sustainable development, lists the following sustainable activities on the granting of coastal areas for special use: Aquasilviculture, mud crab culture/fattening, oyster culture, blue crab culture/fattening, ecotourism, salt water crocodile rearing, seaweed farming and pearl culture/farming, etc.

What's 'etcetera?'

"That's the worst part-the 'etc.' What do they mean by etc? What kind of activities are these?" Arsenio Tanchuling, executive director of Tambuyog Development Center, said in a press briefing.

Tanchuling said the DAO 24 was behind the DENR's cancellation of more than 1,700 community-based forestry management agreements (CBFMA) which paved the way for big investors to use the coastal and forest resources.

A CBFMA is a renewable 25-year tenurial agreement issued by the DENR to an organization of communities to enable members to use and manage specific portions of forest lands, including mangrove forests, while enjoying tenurial security.

This is the only poverty reduction program of the DENR and now the government is taking this away without basis, effectively removing the poor's access to resources and defeating the special justice objective of the program. The DENR's tendency is now toward the corporate control of resources," Tanchuling said.

Privatized

He added that about 230,000 hectares of Philippine coastal areas had already been privatized. They include the coastal waters of Lingayen Gulf, Visayan Sea, San Miguel Bay in Bicol and Davao Gulf.

The country has 18 mariculture parks approved by the DA's Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, Mariculture parks are areas leased to corporations for fish cages, processing plants and other infrastructure for

Under DAO 24, the DENR would get 3 percent of total net revenues from the coastal area development. The lease agreement would be good for 25 years and renewable for another 25 years, depending on the DENR's evaluation of the project.

Environment Undersecretary Armando de Castro, however, said the main objective of the DAO 24 was to develop mangrove areas, consistent with the DENR's mandate under the Wildlife Preservation Act.

Reforesting mangroves

He said only less than 250,000 hectares of mangrove forests were left from the original 500,000 hectares.

"Our objective is to enter into agreements with the private sector, local governments and other interested parties to reforest the mangrove areas," De Castro told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

He said the DENR had identified about 20,000 hectares that would be the priority sites for coastal resource development and conservation. The DENR also met with the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and Indus-

try to discuss the coastal management policy. Defensor had cancelled 8,000 forest agreements including industrial and timber licenses covering 2.2 million hectares during his term, citing the lnability of the holders to comply with requirements.

Commercialization

Defensor has taken a leave of absence effective yesterday to assist President Macapagal-Arroyo in her political affairs.

"The trend is really commercialization. Even [ex-DENR chief Antonio] Cerilles did not show this much change in policy," Philippine Greens spokesperson and noted environmental lawyer Maria Paz Luna sald in a separate interview.

Luna said Defensor's DAO 24 was "legally infirm" because it encroached on the mandate of the local governments and Department of Agriculture to manage and approve development plans for the country's coastal areas.

For clarification

De Castro said the DAO 24's target development areas were the depleted mangrove forests and not the entire constal area.

He said the DENR would come out with a new order clarifying the position soon.

"We probably just have to change the title or make some clarification on the DAO," De Castro said.



Gov't sets March 31 opening for Naia 3

By Nikko Dizon

THE MANILA INTERNATIONAL AIRport Authority (Miaa) is determined to make the mothballed Ninoy Aquino International Airport Terminal 3 "fully operational" by March 31- and has begun a countdown to the big day.

The countdown counter is the first pending issues are the subject of interthat people

would see when they step inside the main elevator of the Miaa administration building.

As of yesterday, there were only "77 days left to complete works at Naia 3." Emblazoned across the counter was the slogan "We make things happen."

The countdown is a way to rally the Miaa staff and employees behind the goal of opening Naia 3, said Robert Uy, an assistant to Miae General Manager Alfonso Cusi.

Cusi had earlier informed the Airline Operators Council of the March 31 target, but officials of the airline association indicated they had a few misgivings.

"We'll support the Misa; that's a deficommitment." said Ed Monreal, for-AOC chair. "However,

Juday's tax case postponed

By DJ Yap

THE ARRAIGNMENT of actress Judy Anne Santos' high-profile tax evasion case to push failed through yesterday after Santos' lawyer filed a motion to quash the case.

Santos lawyer Alentajan Bonifacio sought the dismissal of the case, arguing that the allegations contained in the charge sheet "did not constioffense," AD among other grounds.

Santos was supposed to be arraigned yesterday before the Court of Tax Appeals for tax evasion charges jointly filed by the Bureau of Revenue, Internal under its "Run After Tax Evaders" program, the Department of Finance and Department of Jus-

tice. But when Alentajan asked the court to , act on the actress' motion first before arraignment, prosecutor Olivia Torrevillas said they have not yet received a copy of the motion.

Presiding Justice Ernesto Acosta asked Santos to furnish a copy to the prosecutor, who should submit a comment in 10 days. Santos, in turn, will submit a reply after another 10 days.

Santos filed the motion to quash on Jan, 10, in which she questioned the authority of the complainants in filing the information, and argued that the court has no jurisdiction over the case.

Until the motion is acted on, the arraignment has been reset to another unspecified date.

Santos was earlier charged with tax evasion for allegedly declaring a gross income of only P8 million for 2002, even , though she actually earned P16.4 mil-· Jion, resulting in a total tax deficiency of P2.7 million, charge the actress has denied.

thing must be put in order first ... For us, the airlines' interest, such as our investments, should not be jeopardized."

Airline officials are particularly wary of unresolved legal issues between the government and the Philippine International Air Terminals Co. (Piatco), the original operator of the Naia 3. The

national arbitration.

"Nobody wants to transfer because of the legal aspect," Monreal said.

Moreover, he noted, Misa and airline representatives have yet to discuss the carriers' standard operational requirements, such as office space, ramp condition, communication systems, signages, cargo handling facilities, and the access road that

would connect Terminals 2 and 3.

The AOC has maintained that the airlines need a lead time of six months to smoothly effect their transfer from Terminal 1 to Naia 3.

The Mias has advanced \$10 million to the Japanese construction firm Takenaka Corp. for completion work on various terminal installations such as conveyors.



Saturday, January 14, 2006 1st Week in Ordinary Time 189:1-4, 17-19; 10:1 1st Reading:

Mark 2:13-17 Gospel: When Jesus went out again beside the lake, a crowd came to him and he taught them. As he walked along, he saw a tax collector sitting in his office. This was Levi, the son of Alpheus. Jesus said to him, "Pollow me." And Levi got up and followed him.

And it so happened that while Jesus was eating in Levi's house, tax collectors and sinners were sitting with him and his disciples for there were indeed many of them. But there were also teachers of the Law of the Pharisees' party, among those who followed Jesus, and when they saw him eating with sinners and tax collectors, they said to his disciples, "Why! He eats with tax collectors and sinners!

Jesus heard them and answered, "Healthy people don't need a doctor, but sick people do. 1 did not come to call the righteous but sinners." Commentary

Samuel looks for the king in Israel and anoints Saul as "commander over his heritage." He is to govern the Lord's people and save them from the grasp of their enemies. They have been given what they asked for, instead of God as their only leader. And Jesus too, assumes his leadership, calling to him his disciples, looking for those he wants with him. He finds Levi, a tax collector and summons him to his side. Jesus is looking for sinners, not those who are self-righteous; those who know they need medicine and a doctor. Which of these are we-really?



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Judgment useless without custody, says victim's lawyer

By Norman Bordadora

THE PHILIPPINE GOVERNment's continued lack of custody over the four US soldiers accused of raping a Filipino woman may render "ineffectual" any decision of a Philippine court in the case, according to a lawyer of the complainant.

"(Custody) is an issue because a conviction will not have any effect if the Philippine government cannot enforce its laws or primary jurisdiction over them," lawyer Marle Sheila Bazar said yesterday at the weekly Kapihan sa Newsdesk in Quezon City.

"Any judgment by a Philippine court will be rendered ineffectual," she said.

process had been followed resulting in the issuance of warrants for the arrest of the four accused, the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement had caused deviations from the criminal justice system in this case.

"You have two things working at the same time—our laws and the VFA. Both are at work, so harmonizing the two is a great problem," she said.

Bazar, however, said she was airing her own legal opinion and not that of the team that includes other lawyers Katrina Legarda and Zorayda Ruth An-

"Whether the arrest order will be entertained by the US is another matter since the law be-

Bazar said that while due ing followed is already the [VFA]. That's our problem," Bazar snid.

"But that doesn't stop us from prosecuting," she added.

She also said the rape case would be a test case as far as implementing Philippine laws visa-vis the VFA provisions was concerned.

Not that, Bazar said, the VFA was making things difficult for the complainant's lawyers.

"My only problem is with the implementation of the court processes," she said. "As a lawyer, I am concerned with making a good case for my client. The VFA is within the purview of the legislative and executive branches of govern-

Arrest order out but GIs' custody ...

But he said the warrant would test the ties of friendship and the level of reciprocity between the Philippines and the United States.

The four accused have been in the custody of the US Embassy in Manila since Nov. 2. The embassy has yet to respond to a request for custody filed on Nov. 16 by the Department of Foreign Affairs.

After court researcher Bruce Flummer read the arrest order yesterday, Dilag read a statement saying: "The matter of sovereignty and national pride has set in in this particular case.

"In pursuing the normal legal process in the light of the provisions of the [RP-US] Visiting Forces Agreement, I am of the view that we can first try to exhaust diplomatic means to get custody of the four American servicemen.

"We are a civilized nation and we adhere to the tenets of international law. The strong arm of the law is not yet necessary at this point."

the Philippines, no bail was recommended for the four accused.

Dilag said he would achedule their arraignment after their arrest.

Different process

The Judge ordered the National Bureau of investigation to serve the arrest warrant.

In Manila, NBI officer in charge Nestor Mantaring said the warrant would be served after proper coordination with the Department of Justice and the DFA.

"Head agent Joel Curament of our Olongapo District Office received a copy of the warrant and will deliver it to headquarters within the day," Mantaring told reporters in an interview.

Chief Supt. Leopoldo Bataoil sald the Philippine National Police was prepared to assist in the serving of the warrant.

in coordination with the DOJ and the DFA, and we do not expect resistance," Bataoil said.

But this was not the process described earlier to reporters by Undersecretary Zosimo Paredes, executive director of the Presidential Commission on the VFA.

Paredes had said it would be the DFA that would serve the warrant on US Embassy officials led by Charge d'Affaires Paul Jones at the department's offices in Passy City.

The lawmaker, who asked not

to be named lest he antagonize

Lakas party mates, said the Speak-

er wanted to do away with the

2007 polls to bar former President

Pidel Ramos from seeking a par-

liamentary seat in his hometown

If the warrant is not effectively served, meaning the US authorities decline to turn over the accused, the custody issue will come to a stalemate, Paredes had said.

But even if that happens, the arraignment and trial may still proceed, Dilag said earlier.

Wait and see

Whether the Philippine government would be able to take custody of the accused remained a wait-and-see affair.

At press time, the warrant had yet to be officially transmitted to

"As from the beginning, on all legal and judicial matters concerning the Subic case, including the issue of the warrant of arrest, the DFA shall be guided by the legal advice of the Bert Asuque, DRA spokesperson, said in a text message.

Asuque reiterated that the DFA had a pending custody request with the US Embassy.

"We continue to pursue this Rape being a heinous crime in matter through diplomatic channels, and any differences shall be resolved through dialogue and diplomacy," he said.

Later at a bnemig, Asuque reminded the public that the Subic rape case was "not an ordinary case."

"We have to take into account our treaty obligations when we address this issue," he said, referring to the VFA.

Foreign Secretary Alberto Romulo was in Washington when informed of the issuance of the warrant.

Asuque said the Subic case was not on the agenda of Romulo's trip. He said Romulo was in Washington to testify before an international arbitration body hearing the case of the controversial contract involving the Ninoy Aquino International Airport's Terminal 3.

Neither Asuque nor US Embassy spokesperson Matthew Lussenhop agreed to give con-"Any arrest made will be made crete updates on the negotiations over the issue of custody.

Lussenhop said that as far as the embassy was concerned, "we're moving forward" with the case under the VFA framework.

Local law vs VFA

Gonzalez said developments would "depend on [the Americans'] attitude—if they are willing to surrender these people."

"If not, they will just receive the warrant and tell us: 'We'll in-

form you later," he said.

According to Gonzalez, while local laws may empower the government to serve the arrest warrant, it cannot do so in view of the VFA.

"If you follow the VFA, there can really be no turnover," he said.

Asked about Philippine criminal laws, Gonzalez said: "You cannot compare local laws with the VFA because this is an international agreement."

Thus, the Philippines cannot do anything if the US government refuses to turn over the accused, he said.

"It may not be OK with us, but of course they can do that ... And you cannot invade the US Embassy-it is sacrosanct," he said.

Defense moves

In separate phone interviews, defense lawyers said they would take action to stop the arrest of their clients.

Benjamin Pormoso, counsel for Smith, said he would elevate the case before the Court of Appeals to obtain a temporary restraining

He said he would also ask the appellate court to rule on the issues of judicial determination of probable cause, jurisdiction, and the authority of Dilag to try the case given that the latter presides over a special family court.

Francisco Rodrigo and John Coluso, counsel for Carpentier and Silkwood and Duplantis, respectively, said they would file a From page A! motion to quash the warrant before Dilag's court.

"It's sad that our motions were dismissed," Coluso said, referring to his and Rodrigo's pleadings to defer proceedings.

Coluso wryly noted that the arrest order was handed on a Friday the 13th, a supposed day of misfortune.

Happy, disappointed

Interviewed by phone from Zamboanga City, the mother of the complainant said her daughter was "happy" that the arrest warrant had been issued, but "disappointed" that Soriano had been cleared.

The mother said her daughter was still suffering from nervousness and had not yet resumed work in the family-owned business. With reports from Volt Contreras, Armand N. Nocum, Luige A. del Puerto and Margaux C. Ortis in Manila

FVR sticks to ultimatum

From page Al

cut short her term by 2007," according to the latest statement.

There was also some confusion on exactly what role Speaker Jose de Venecia played in the Wednesday meeting.

Lakas sources earlier said that De Venecia came late for the talks but Ramos and Presidential Adviser for Political Affairs Gabriel Claudio said the Speaker was in the meeting.

At a press briefing yesterday at the Clark Special Economic Zone, Ramos said there were no clear agreements reached during the meeting with Ms Arroyo on the issues of her cutting her term short and the holding of parliamentary elections in 2007.

"Walang ganoong maliwanag na usapan (There was no such clear agreement)," Ramos

Not jovial but serious

Ramos was at Clark to promote the revival of Expo Pilipino, a Philippine Independence centennial project launched during his

He declined to disclose details of the Wednesday meeting, saying only that "75 percent of the news and analysis was partially

The ex-President also corrected reports that the meeting was "jovial," preferring to describe it as "serious."

Asked in an ambush interview if he would reiterate his proposal during today's meeting of the Lakas-CMD, Ramos said: "Abangan nyo (Watch for it)."

Correcting Claudio

Ramos rejected the French parliamentary model espoused by De Venecia, which would provide for shared powers between the President and the incoming prime minister until 2010.

Such a serup would only result in a "status quo," he said.

"A fresh start has to be in place by 2007 because the country may not be able to weather the political and economic crisis," Ramos

Correcting Claudio

Ramos gave the Inquiren a copy of Claudio's press statement on the meeting but with his corrections and marginal

notes on it.

Ramos disputed Claudio's contention that the Wednesday meeting was "an unmistakable reiteration of the two Presidents' support for each other."

Ramos, in his marginal notes, stressed that his support was for the national interest of the country, "not for particular lead-

On Claudio's claim that both leaders agreed on a "win-win formula," Ramos said "conflicting versions in today's broadsheets do not augur well for expected win-win formu-

He further wrote: "Repeated reference to French model not palatable to me due to it being almost like status quo for four more years under 1987 Charter ... but not genuine reform."

Ermita's version

In Malacahang, Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita yesterday said no detailed discussions took place on the tenure of Ms Arroyo or on the proposal to scrap the 2007 polls during the Wednesday dinner-meet-

This was because Ramos early on suggested to them that they let Congress and the people decide on these two contentious Charter change issues.

"And the President and Speaker De Venecia agreed (with Ramos' suggestion) that this be thrown to Congress," Ermita

On the eve of today's Lakas national directorate meeting, Malacañang reiterated that Ms Arroyo intended to finish her term in 2010 unless a new Constitution stated that she should step down

Around 50 to 70 Lakas officials are to gather in Malacañang tonight for the national directorate meeting.

Among the issues to be taken up tonight include the proposal of the Palace-created Consultative Commission to scrap the 2007 polls as well as whether to allow President Arroyo to step down in 2007 as part of the transition from presidential to a parliamentary form of government.

Palace position

"President Arroyo will stay un- Northern Luson Bureau

til 2010 and exercise her full power, authority and mandate under her oath until the Filipinos say otherwise in a constitutionally sanctioned process," Press Secretury Ignacio Bunye said in a

Avoid more heat

"At a time when the nation needs a strong leadership for economic takeoff, social reform and political renewal, we find it unnecessary to belabor the transitional issues of Charter change before they have even been discussed in Congress or considered by the sovereign people," Bunye said.

Apparently referring to Ramos, who continued to press for the President to cut short her term, Bunye appealed to everyone to "first resolve the basic structural reforms ... before we delve into term limits or power sharing-which only tend to put more heat on the political pot."

Roberto Pagdanganan, Lakas vice president for rural development, said that many Lakus officials and members wanted the 2007 elections to push through and for Ms Arroyo to finish her term in 2010.

Pagdanganan, who was in Malacañang yesterday, said he was confident that the proposal to scrap the 2007 elections would not push through.

Unicameral parliament

He said consultations he made not only with party officials but also with ordinary people showed that many preferred to have the 2007 polls proceed.

People want elections because this was the only time they can pick the leaders they want, he

"My personal position is there should be elections," Pagdanganan said. "We should reform the electoral process as quickly as we can, and let there be elections in 2007."

He also said the proposal for a unicameral system was "gaining ground" not only in the party but even among ordinary people. With reports from Christine O. Avendaño and and Yolanda Sotelo-Fuertes, PDI

Noli breaks silence: I am my own man

ple to believe what they want to believe," he said in Filipino.

ABS-CBN did not renew the contract of the long-running weekly current affairs program that made De Castro famous as "Kabayan." Its last show was sired last Dec. 31.

A network insider said the decision was made because of De Castro's "problems" with ABS-CBN management over his support for President Macapagal-Ar-

De Castro refused to talk about the alleged request of the Lopezes to sever his ties with the Presi-

But Maria Ressa, news and current affairs head of ABS-CBN, said in a statement to the Inquiren on Wednesday that it was "an organizational move and not a po-

Ressa went on the air on Thursday to reiterate the points she made in her statement. She also said she was instituting changes in the newsroom to promote "excellent journalism," and cited, among other things, MGB and the Vice President as a case of "conflict of interest."

Right to collect Meraico debt

But De Castro yesterday pointed out that he left MGB in 2004, when he assumed the vice presidency, to avoid conflict of inter-

He said he was not receiving compensation for his public ser-Com was to junk the proposal but vice program, "Para sa lyo, Bayan," which is aired by the Lopez-owned dzMM radio station every Saturday.

He also said whatever he had received from ABS-CBN in connection with the show was something he had worked hard for.

De Castro clarified that MGB was not a block-timer but a lineproduced show, meaning it was ABS-CBN that was funding it, in-

cluding the wages of the people behind it, and earning from com-A block-timer finances the

show and collects the profit from commercials, he explained. He also said Bayan Productions, headed by his wife Arlene,

was put up precisely for the show. "It's like in the government. ABS-CBN gives the money to Bayan for MGB--directly, no red tape. I negotiated that arrangement when we put up MGB," he

Pressed to talk about his reported rift with the Lopezes, De Castro said Ressa had already made a statement.

Asked why the rumor that there was politics behind the axing of MGB was persisting, he said it was "Ressa's problem that no one was believing her."

Asked to explain his hardline stance against the Lopez-owned Manila Electric Co. (Meraico), De Castro said he had made a stand as a consumer.

He said the government, through the National Power Corp., was correct in pressing for the collection of billions of pesos that Meralco owed the NPC.

'Head-on collision'

His close friends in ABS-CBN, who asked not to be named for fear of losing their jobs, said the Lopezes declared a "head-on collision" with the President when they spent the holidays in the United States last month.

One of the sources said De Castro was not talking because the latter had resented the way ABS-CBN handled the "rift," especially in allowing Ressa to invoke the issue of conflict of interest.

"The Vice President is hurting. Why did they allow Maria Ressa's spin when there was no conflict of interest because he had long left MGB?" the source said,

"Ressa obviously did not know

what really happened. She is said to be a good broadcast journalist. If only she would dig deeper, she would know the truth.

"How can Ressa deny something which she does not have knowledge of? Was she there when the Lopezes spoke with the Vice President to abandon the President? Obviously, she is ignorant of the culture here, especially in local broadcast-

"If the reported rift is not true, how come they don't invite the Vice President to [the earlyevening news broadcast) TV Patrol' and ask him to deny it, which they would usually do whenever they want him to deny or clarify something? How come the Lopezes have not come forward to talk about it, and just let Ressa do the talking?"

'Feelers'

GMA 7 yesterday admitted that it had received "feelers" from the group behind MGB on the possibility of transferring the show to ABS-CBN's rival net-

"The issue has become complicated because of the politics. Now, it is no longer just a com-mercial transaction," GMA 7 president Felipe Gozon said in an interview.

Gozon said that as a policy, "we prefer to have nothing to do with politics so that we can stand by our slogan-Walang kinikilingan(unbiased)."

Gozon stressed that the network was not closing its doors on MGB. But he said talk about its transfer was premature and "neither here nor there."

He also said De Castro still had a lot of "commercial value,"

De Castro, however, said he had no intention of hosting MGB in other TV stations because of his busy schedule as Vice President. With a report from Claris-

Pangasinan, a jumping board to becoming prime minister. **GMA** a victim

"Both of them are obsessed in becoming prime minister," said the Lakas member, referring to Ramos and De Venecia. "So in this contest between the two old politicians, President Arroyo becomes the victim."

The Lakas member added: "The two are quarreling over nothing. Imagine, they are fighting as if they can control the minds of congressmen and senators. What makes them think that the Senate will agree to their obsolete formulas?"

JDV behind 'no-election' provision

IDV rejoicing

Rosales recalled that on the day that the ConCom voted for the No-El proposal, De Venecia "was all over (the legislature), telling so many lawmakers about it."

Rosales said she was even chided by several administration lawmakers for not supporting the proposal which would be beneficial to incumbent officials.

It was on Dec. 15 when Con-Com members voted to include the No-El proposal as part of transitory provisions of a proposed new Constitution. The proposal would extend the terms of office of all elective officials, including members of Congress and half of the Senate, who will automatically become part of the interim par-

liament until 2010. Paras said he, too, was present

at the lounge of the House of Representatives when De Venecia was rejoicing over the ConCom vote. "From what I've heard from the

Speaker when we were talking at

the lounge, it seems that he had a

hand in the decision for a No-El. He was happy to announce it to us at the time," said Paras. Paras recalled that De Venecia disclosed to congressmen that the original "consensus" of the Con-

it "won" in the end. "We could not disregard the fact that the Speaker may have influence over the commission as far as the proposal for No-El was concerned," said Paras.

He added: "I think the Speaker had good intentions. His purpose for pushing for No-El, from what I heard from his explanation, is that since we have a new Constitution we have to get used to it first."

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

362 pilgrims dead in hajj stampede

MINA, SAUDI ARABIA—A TOTAL OF 362 PILgrims, including about 100 Egyptian nationals, were killed in the stampede at the annual hajj pilgrimage, a senior Saudi medical official told AFP on Friday.



A MUSLIM pilgrim tries to reach the dead body of a relative victim of a stampede in Mina, Saudi Arabia, Jan. 12.

"We now have 362 dead, including about 100 Egyptians," said Husseln Saieh Bahashwan, deputy director at al-Muaysem morgue, just outside of the city of Mina, east of the holy city of Mecca.

Earlier estimates said at least 345 pilgrims were trampled to death and almost 300 injured Thursday in a scramble to hurl pebbles at symbols of Satan on the last day of the annual Muslim pilgrimage in Saudi Arabia.

Stricken families were hunting for their loved ones Friday after the stampede at the hajj, a disaster Saudi authorities have blamed on unruly pilgrims.

In the absence of an official list of casualties, families continued to seek news of their missing relatives among the dead and wounded of the worst stampede during the Muslim pilgrimage since 1,426 pilgrims were killed in 1990.

At least 36 Pakistanis, 26 Indians, four Chlnese and two Indonesian nationals were among the victims crushed to death in the

stampede in Mina, east of the holy city of Mecca, according to their foreign ministries.

Riyadh blamed the stampede on unruly pilgrims from outside officially sanctioned operators.

But some witnesses said police triggered the chaos by suddenly blocking the entrance to a bridge, and others reported panic among pilgrims about when they should perform the last rite of hajj in which some 2.5 million took part.

Saudi Crown Prince Sultan bin Abdul Aziz said in remarks published Priday by the Saudi-owned Asharq

"We now have 362 dead, including about Al-Awsat newspaper that the stoning ceremony had been taking place for several days without problems."

"But what happened is that more than 12 people were carrying a large amount of baggage on their backs, so when it became too crowded they fell on the ground one on top of the other," he said.

"People kept falling one on top of the other until about 300 people died," he said.

"Our pilgrim brothers are forbidden from carrying baggage and workloads on their shoulders during the stoning ritual."

shoulders during the stoning ritual."
On Thursday, Saudi Health Minister
Hamad bin Abdullah Al-Maneh said the stampede was caused by "unruly pilgrims, and a
problem of luggage."

Interior ministry spokesperson Mansur Al-Turki also said the accident occurred "because of the luggage that fell and led to a rush at the eastern entrance of the Jamarat bridge," where the

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pilgrims stone the three pillars.

The stoning of Satan is the riskiest episode of the hajj as the pilgrims jostle to make sure their pebbles touch the pillar while the weaker ones risk being trampled on by the masses.

The latest tragedy comes days after 76 people were killed when a hostel in the heart of Mecca collapsed last week.

Almost 60,000 security, health, emergency and other personnel were involved in organizing this year's haji, trying to prevent the deadly incidents that have marred it in recent years from being repeated.

A total of 251 Muslim pilgrims were trampled to death in the 2004 hajj as people panicked during the stoning.

The ritual, which is spread out over three days, marks the final part of the hali pilgrimage for the more than two million Muslim pllgrims who have flocked to Mecca from around the world.

AFP



Iran threatens to end nuclear cooperation

TEHRAN—IRAN ON FRIDAY THREATENED to end cooperation with the UN nuclear watchdog over its nuclear program if the issue is referred to the UN Security Council.

"If the dossier is sent to the Security Council, the European countries will lose the means which are currently at their disposal, because ... the government will be obliged, in conformity with the law adopted by parliament, to end all its voluntary measures of cooperation," Iran's Poreign Minister Manouchehr Mottaki was quoted as saying by the official IRNA news agency.

Iran's standoff with the international community has escalated after Tehran resumed sensitive nuclear work but possible sanctions have been ruled out at least for the moment.

Europe's three major powers responded to Iran's move to reactivate uranium enrichment research by asking for an emergency meeting of the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), while UN chief Kofi Annan said Iran was still keen on pursuing nuclear talks with European powers.

In December Iran's hardline President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad signed off on legislation that could limit UN inspections at Iran's nuclear sites if its case is taken to the Security Council. The law obliges the government to "stop vol-

untary and non-legally binding measures and implement its scientific, research and executive programs" if the Security Council gets involved. Ahmadinejad has ordered Iran's Atomic

Energy Agency to be prepared to apply the

law, the Fars news agency reported.

The law does not refer to specific forms of retaliation, but counter-measures could include refusing to adhere to the additional protocol of the nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, which gives increased inspection powers to the IAEA.

The additional protocol was signed by the previous reformist government but was never ratified by MPs in the conservative-run parliament.

Compliance with the additional protocol is seen as being crucial to an IAEA probe into allegations that Iran is using an atomic energy drive as a cover for weapons development.

In Washington, US Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice accused Tehran of a "deliberate escalation" of the dispute, and said it was in "dangerous defiance of the entire international community."

Mottaki urged the Europeans to deal with Iran's nuclear activities with "discretion, patience and a rational attitude."

"We advise the Europeans to separate the question of research from producing the nuclear fuel and do not propagate around the nuclear research activities which had been unjustly suspended," he said.

"If they want to discuss making nuclear fu-

"If they want to discuss making indicar suel we are ready to follow up with the negotiations with the EU-3," he said.

If the negotiations are broken off by the Europeans 'Tran will only be in contact with the IAEA to maintain its legitimate and natural rights," AFP

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WORLDBRIEFS

Bird flu spreads

ANKARA-One of two boys who tested positive for bird flu in Turkey has now begun showing symptoms, Turkish officials said on Thursday as experts cautioned the threat of a pandemic is steadily growing. The board of the World Bank endorsed \$500 million in aid to help countries deal with H5N1 avian influenza, while US health officials dispersed \$100 mll-If on for state and local preparedness. The virus, while it is spreading and changing, still poses no immediate threat of a pandemic, but experts stress it could do so at any time. They say it is vital to prepare emergency response teams, stockpile what drugs there are and build up surveillance networks to detect new outbreaks. The H5N1 virus has been found in wild birds and poultry across large parts of Turkey, particularly in poor villages stretching from Istanbul, on the borders of Europe, to Van near the transan and track borders. It has killed three children in Turkey. Globally H5N1 has infected 147 people and killed 78 of them, according to the latest official WHO tally, which includes only four of the Turideh cases.

300 millionth American

Experts estimate that some time this month, a couple, probably white Angio-Saxon Protestants or Hispanic, will conceive a baby whe, when born in October, will become the 300 millionth American. As of Thursday, the Census Bureau officially

pegged the resident population of the United States at closing in on 297,900,000. The bureau estimates that with a baby being born every eight seconds, someone dying every 12 seconds and the nation gaining an immigrant every 31 seconds on average, the population is growing by one person every 14 seconds. At that rate, the total is expected to top 300 million late this year.

NYT News Service

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US Supreme Court nominee

WASHINGTON-Supreme Court nominee Samuel Alito on Thursday was headed for Senate confirmation despite a protracted effort by combative Democrats to show he would move the court to the right on abortion and other divisive issues. The 55-year-old conservative, unflappable through a four-day ordeal before the Senate Judiciary Committee, deflected most of the direct questioning on abortion rights and the scope of presidential authority. The Republican-led Senate was expected to confirm President George W. Bush's pick for the court as early as next week, and Democrats soknowledged it would be hard to block him. Allto would replace retiring Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, a moderate conservative who often has been the swing vote on abortion and other social issues on the nine-member court.

children's 5 Years of Giving Hope











Children's Hour Philippines, Inc. successfully capped their benefit heath dubbed as "5 Years of Giving Hope", an annual event organizad by the Wakati Business Club and sponsored by renowned restauration Chef Billy King of Veulez Visus and Francis Lumen of the MEC Bell

Over BBD people attended the event at the NSC Tent and with the generosity of countless companies and individuals close to million passes in cash and pledges were presented, all geared to fund projects for Filipino children. ...

Ms. International 2005, Precious Lare Quigamen, graced the gathering to show her support to the advocacy of Children's House. Adding to the event's marriment was the world class music of the internationally acclaimed University of Santo Tomas Singers and the energized densing provided by the telested children of the Quezon City Perfecting Adm.

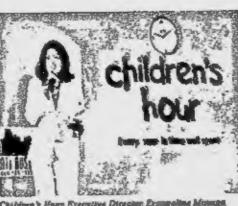
Children's Hour is a fundrasing and grant-giving organization committed to the betterment of the Filipino child. Since 1999, it has raised many till million genes and has supported 164 projects that directly benefitted more than 196,000 children all over the

Children's Hour supports projects for children in need of special protection in the following areas: formal, non-formal and special education, early childhood care and development, shelter and rehabilitation, psycho-social rehabilitation, firster care and home reintegration assistance, health and nutrition/medical care, and the provision of medical, school or training equipment. Projects must be innovative and pioneering, preferably directed towards underserved and indigenous regions, sustainable, replicable, and should have a machenism for determining outputs. The results must have direct impact on the child, both physically and mentally, and must address one or more of the four emerging issues: children in conflict with the law, children involved in armed conflict, children of migrant workers and commercial and sexual exploitation of children.

The event was partly sponsored by Advanced Business Concept, Armed Forces of the Philippines, Brooklyn Pizza, Cordillers Coffee, Dell Ric, Green Tomato, Highmark Enterprises, Inc., Hot Loops Donuts, Haw at Tunog ni Won Vitan, Infinit -t Communications Services, Island Cove Caville, Johnson & Johnson Phile. Inc., Max's Bakeshop, Microdala Systems and Management, Inc., Media Phile. (Chuckie) Picture City, Rupert Signs and Display, Scan Asia Overseas, Inc., Systems Axis, Titania Wine Cellar, Universal Robina Corp. (C2 and Refresh Flavored Drinks), Waterfront Hotel and Casino Cebu, Worldbex Services International, and Versatile Telecons, Inc.



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Pope's attacker freed, but will mysteries be solved?

By Frances d'Emilio

ROME—COULD THE FREEDOM THAT CAME Thursday for the Turk who shot Pope John Paul II help solve the lingering question in the 1981 attack, particularly, who might have been behind the assassination attempt during the Cold War?

Rosario Priore, the Italian magistrate who in 1986 failed to convince a jury in Rome that Bulgaria and the Soviet KGB conspired to kill the Polish-born pope, voiced guarded optimism on Thursday that Mehmet Ali Agca as a free man could reveal the full truth about the shooting.

Among the questions that historians, law enforcement officials and untold admirers of John Paul would like answered is whether any foreign power launched a plot to kill the pontiff, whose championing of the Solidarity labor movement in Poland figured in the demise of communism in the Soviet bloc.

Agea now "is potentially freer to tell the truth," Priore said in an interview with AP Television News.

Agea was released on Thursday from an Istanbul prison, after serving time for the slaying of a Turkish journalist. Italy extradited him to Turkey in 2000 after he had spent nearly 20 years in Italian prisons for shooting John Paul in St. Peter's Square.

But Agea has been notoriously contradictory in what he has said over the decades about the attack on John Paul, and Priore also expressed worry that some might want to use him for their own ends. Agea belonged to the Gray Wolves, a right-wing militant group in Turkey.

"I feel he could return to old networks. He could be, in some sense, attracted by persons who could manipulate him," Priore said. Agca, should he decide to talk, might dredge up "the old versions" about the attack or "ver-

sions that are new, that is my fear."

The magistrate also expressed fear Agca could be eliminated by someone.

Priore has said through the years that he is convinced there was a plot against the pope and that Agea did not act alone. In the interview, he expressed hope that the "judicial truth" but more important, the historical truth," would emerge about the attempt on the pontiff's life.

Agca's statements have both tantalized and frustrated prosecutors over the decades.

The Turk himself suggested that Bulgarians and the KGB were behind the attack, but later backed off that theory.

Italian juries can reach a verdict of outright innocence or can rule that there was not enough evidence to convict, as one jury did in 1986 when it acquitted six defendants—three Bulgarians and three Turks-in the "Bulgarian connection" case.

An Italian appeals trial in 1987 reached the same conclusion.

When Agea was arrested minutes after he shot and gravely wounded the pope, he declared that he had acted alone.

He received a life sentence for the shooting, but the jury, while saying it couldn't back its theory, said in its ruling that the shooting stemmed from "complex plot orchestrated by hidden minds interested in destabilization."

At one point in Italy's long-running investigation of the shooting, Agea was shown a photograph taken in St. Peter's Square that showed a man with a gun fleeing the area after the attack.

Agea said the man was a Bulgarian accomplice. But later he changed his story and said the man was fugitive Oral Celik, a Turk who was among those acquitted in the 1985-1986 "Bulgarian Connection" trial.

During that trial, Agea declared he was Jesus Christ, and prosecutors contended that his bizarre outbursts led the jury not to believe past declarations about the so-called link to the Soviet sphere.

On the 10th anniversary of the shooting, Agca, in a letter from his Italian prison cell, renewed his allegations that the Bulgarian secret services, backed by the Soviet KGB, ordered the shooting.

In a 2005 interview with Rome daily La Repubblica, Agca alleged that Vatican prelates helped him carry out the shooting, a claim quickly dismissed by Cardinal Roberto Tucci, who used to organize John Paul's travels.

Bulgaria, after the downfall of Sovietbloc communism, promised full cooperation with efforts to probe the "Bulgarian Connection" the-



MEHMET Ali Agca, the Turk who attempted to kill Pope John Paul II in 1981, displays a Time magazine after being freed in Istanbul, Jan. 12. AFF

Sex and the electricity in Iraq

BAGHDAD-AHMED HAD! AND HIS NEW ern and northern Iraq-where most of the wife Tiba Mohammed, like many young married couples in Baghdad, are not getting enough sex. The problem, they say, is not a lack of desire but of power-electrical power.

Making love for many of Iraq's Muslim population not only requires a willing partner but also a sure supply of water-preferably hot in the winter-to enable the participants to take a shower afterward before going to pray.

No hot water means no hot shower and therefore prayers, which take place five times a day for devout Muslims, can become a problem.

Either a couple avoids sex or they are forced to take a cold dip, not a pleasant prospect during the winter months.

"I have less sex than I want because there is no hot water to wash with afterward," moaned Hadi, 25, a Baghdad local who works in the water sector and has only been married for two weeks.

"Sometimes, when we are in the middle of making love the electricity turns off so we have to stop. I get out of bed to put a generator on and then we have to wait for the water to heat up," he told AFP.

On the evening of the Eid'l Adha (Muslim feast of the sacrifice) holiday which started on Tuesday, Hadi had hoped for a night of romance. "Unfortunately, the electricity cut out from 5

p.m. until 11 p.m. There was nothing for us to do other than sit and look at each other. I did not get married just to have conversation," he said.

in contrast to the situation in Iraq, power cuts in Western countries often lead to a spike in births nine months later as couples abandon watching television to share a warm bed.

Baghdad much of central fraq are suffering their worst ever electricity shortage, said a Western diplomat with expertise in the electricity sector. The power is on for just two to six hours per day in the capital.

In contrast, south

power stations are based-have more energy than before the US-led invasion when Saddam Hussein used to divert most of the power to Baghdad, depriving everyone else.

Following his downfall in April 2003, USled and Iraqi projects have been launched to generate permanent power for all of Iraq, but so far they have failed to make much impact.

This is because the US-led coalition underestimated the dilapidated state of Iraq's electricity infrastructure following a decade of international sanctions, the diplomat told AFP, speaking on condition of anonymicy.

In addition, repair work has been hampered daily by insurgent attacks against transmission lines and power stations.

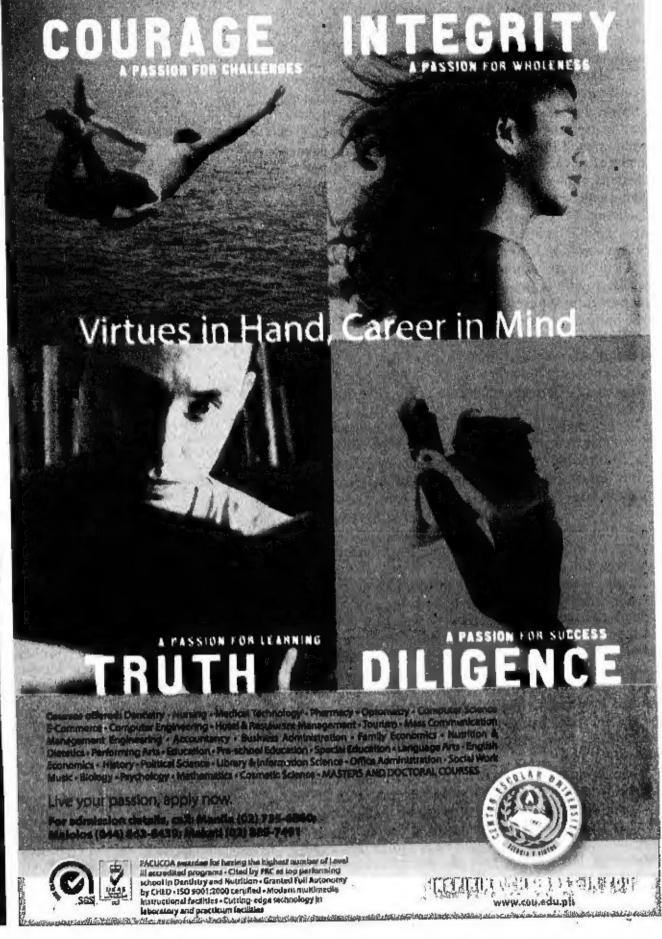
For normal Iraqis, especially those living in Baghdad, this has resulted in further hardship.

Yasser Mohammed Saffar, a 26-year-old shop owner, and Tamara Shimary, 20, his wife of one year, live together with Safar's parents and two sisters in an apartment in southeastern Baghdad.

He too said the lack of electricity has affected his sex life because there is no hot water in the winter months and no air-conditioning in the summer-another major impediment to a person's libido.









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Pep talk

UDGET SECRETARY ROMULO NERI HAS DISPUTED the results of a Social Weather Stations survey that showed 16.7 percent of Filipino households experienced hunger in the last quarter. He said the respondents might have exaggerated their poverty. His explanation is a variant of the old claim that respondents don't tell the truth in social science polls. Of course, there's also the probability

that government planners don't tell the EDITORIAL truth when they trumpet claims of economic growth and recovery, but that's be-

side the point.

As part of the government's economic team, Neri cannot just dismiss a study on self-rated poverty; it is his duty to look for feedback on the government's anti-poverty programs, if only to determine whether they are working in the first place. The survey provides such feedback.

The SWS described the increase in the number of families going hungry-from 15.5 percent to 16.7 percent-as "alarming." The new record, according to the SWS, was due to an increase in "severe hunger." This means some 2.8 million families have "often," if not nearly "always," gone hungry in the last three months. Corollary to this, the proportion of household heads rating themselves "poor" went up to 57 percent from the 49 percent recorded last August, the SWS said.

Notably, the last quarter of the year is ordinarily the period during which bonuses and extra compensation are released. Still, late last year, many Filipinos considered themselves poor, even hungry. It was also last quarter when the economy appeared to have picked up, closing the year with big international reserves and a stronger peso. Obviously, none of these statistics bolstered the

confidence and optimism of many Filipinos. To be sure, the survey findings might have been merely a reflection of the mood of despair that, psychologists say, prevails during the holidays, when some people's loneliness worsens because of the bright mood all around—a phenomenon that has presumably led to a higher incidence of suicide during the Christmas season. But if, indeed, psychology has something to do with respondents giving pollsters a grim picture, then Neri and the rest of President Macapagal-Arroyo's economic team should work double time to lift up the mood of the people with

concrete economic reforms. For all the government's loud claims, last year's ecohomic growth, estimated to be 4.9 percent at the most, is a far cry from the growth rate of 5.7 percent in 2004. It is true that last quarter's growth reached 6.5 percent, from 5.7 percent in the same quarter of 2004; but the hike was fueled by the workers' higher remittances. Our labor export may boast astounding statistics, but they are more a symptom of a disease rather than a cure, or an indication

of recovery. Moreover, Philippine economic growth lags behind the rest of Asia. It is paltry compared with those of China, India, Hong Kong, Malaysia, Singapore, or even Indonesia.

It is not expected to fare better in 2006. According to analysts, the Philippine economy is expected to grow 4.8 percent this year, still behind the rest of Asia, except Thailand. And it is expected to be propelled by dollar remittances, as in recent past, from the 10 million Filipinos overseas.

Domestic growth—the number of goods and services produced in the country-has been in the doldrums. Exports for example rose by merely 2.9 percent in the first 10 months of 2005 to P33.6 billion. Despite the generally good weather conditions last year, agriculture didn't perform quite as well as it had in the previous year-indicating that the obstacles to agricultural growth are not natural but man-made, like monopolies, corruption, inefficiency and poor planning. Manufacturers didn't do too well either, their performance hampered by smuggling and piracy.

Therefore, it is not inconceivable that many Filipinos indeed went severely hungry in the last quarter of 2005; and that their impression of their going hungry and becoming poor was not just the result of a mood swing, as Neri would like us to believe. The economy may not be tragnating, but it is not hale and hearty either. All this trumpeting of economic achievements by Neri is mere pep talk to counter the mood swing. But no amount of pep talk can ever revive the economy.



Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma

SOME READERS HAVE ASKED ME WHY, AS A former member of the Supreme Court, I have not written anything about the late Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma. The reason is that so much has already been said about her exemplary life and achievements, all in deserved praise, that I felt anything I would say would be sheer super-

The excellent tributes paid her at her necrological services at the Supreme Court last week, particularly by Justices Flerida Ruth Romero, Ameurfina Melencio-Herrera and Carolina Griño-Aquino, her worthy successors on the high tribunal to which she was the first female jurist to be appointed, practically said it all except for one observation I will here make.

Everybody now knows that President Marcos made a mistake when he appointed Cecilia Muñoz-Palma, probably thinking that as a woman she would be tractable and easily handled. She was not, definitely not, prompting then Secretary of Justice Vicente Abad Santos to call her an "ingrata." (In fairness to Abad Santos, he himself became an ingrate when, after being elevated to the high tribunal by Marcos, he also often criticized his benefactor like Justices Claudio Teehankee and Palma.)

In the case of Sanidad v. Commission on Elections, 73 SCRA 333, the issue posed was the validity of a referendum called by Marcos on his presidential decree proposing amendments to the Constitution. Expectedly, the majority of the Supreme Court obediently supported him, but Justices Techankee and Palma, also as expected, refused to be similarly indulgent. The latter concluded her dissenting opinion with the following worrisome

"I must be forgiven if, not concerned with the present, I am haunted however by what can happen in the future, when we shall all be gone." (If I may digress a bit, was she fearing for our present?) "Verily, this is a matter of SEPARATE **OPINION**

Isagani A. Cruz

grave concern which necessitates full, mature. sober deliberation of the people but which they can do only in a climate of freedom without the restraints of martial law."

Justice Celing, as she was affectionately called by her colleagues as well as thousands of admirers who did not even know her personalby expressed her independence of mind in many other cases, especially the habeas corpus petition against the continued detention of Sen. Jose W. Diokno without any charges being filed against him. Unable to make any credible excuse, Marcos merely employed his usual tactic to disarm judicial challenge to his abuses. The despot simply ordered Diokno's release, thus making the case moot and academic.

its dismissal saved Marcos the unanswerable denunciation contained in Justice Palma's original dissenting opinion that, together with Justice Techankee's also forceful tirade, would have aggravated public resentment against the dictatorship. In grieving for Diokno upon his death after Edsa I, the nation also remembered the female jurist who had championed him on the Supreme Court.

Admiration for Justice Palma increased, inspired mostly by the fact that she was a woman, a member of the weaker sex, defending the ramparts of justice against the majority of her subservient colleagues. Careful to keep in the good graces of Marcos, who could not only inflict unrestrained vengeance against those who opposed him but also reward those who unctuously praised him, these sycophants tried

their best to persuade her to join them in their

Of course, they failed; Justice Palma remained unconvinced. She held fast to her convictions and is now remembered in gratitude, while those who sat against her to fawn upon their arrogant master have been dismissed by history as craven opportunists. By contrast, she has risen to the honored stature of a modern heroine, a model of women in general and especially of female lawyers, a symbol of probity in public office, and a steadfast defender of the rule of law against those who would scorn and

As a private person, she was a devoted wife to her beloved Rodong, our dean and friend at the UE College of Law, the solicitous mother of their three children, and unfailingly courteous to all, including the cohorts of the dictatorship she despised.

And so this is the observation I will now take from my brief account of her life and works in my "Res Gestae, a Brief History of the Supreme Court from Arellano to Narvasa." It is not a soaring exaltation of her sterling credentials but a naughty description of her male colleagues whose cowardice impressed in bold relief the quiet wisdom and indomitable patricrism of Justice Celing:

"Muñoz-Palma was now being regarded as a formidable ally of Techankee in opposing the abuses of the martial law regime. The rumor began to grow that Marcos was regretting his appointment of the lady justice who was proving to be more courageous than her male colleagues on the Court. The down-to-earth comparison was more anatomical than polite and cannot be repeated in this work."

Sorry, Madame Justice Cecilia Muñoz-Palma, but they really deserved that devastating joke. Albeit not in good taste, it was as caustic-and as truthful-as your dissenting opin-

Same public opinion on parliamentary system

I WAS EXTREMELY PUZZLED AND DISTURBED when the fourth-quarter SWS survey on Charter change came out. As reported by media, the survey showed a sea change in the public opinion on Charter change: 54 percent of the people approved of Charter change (provided Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo steps down before 2010); people were no longer adamant about directly electing the chief executive; and the parliamentary system was no longer a no-no.

The puzzlement arose from the fact that barely two months earlier, the Pulse Asia survey showed that more than half (55 percent) of the Filiplaos, give or take three percentage points, did not want the Constitution amended at this time; that about 60 percent of them were not in favor of a parliamentary system, a proportion that has remained remarkably steady at least over the past two years. What could have happened in the two-month period between the surveys that changed the people's minds?

The only thing I can think of-and this is what disturbs me, because it would imply that the Filipino people are so easily misled—is that the lies being spread about the advantages of Charter change, in particular, the shift to a parliamentary system (i.e., it will cure poverty, unemployment, incompetence and everything

else ailing us) are effective. Well, guess what, folks. It turned out-and looking at the survey questions themselves will bear this our-that the SWS survey did not ask the people whether they wanted to change the Constitution or not. Neither did it ask whether the people wanted a parliamentary system or not. The survey questions, near as I can translate them, totally set that issue aside, by the prefatory sentence: "Any changes to the Constitution would have to be approved by the people before becoming effective." Only after this introductory statement was the actual

The SWS' reason for asking questions in this manner is stated in its report: "To understand public opinion about a proposed revision of the



Constitution, it is important to ask survey respondents one or more questions about each separate component of the revision, as SWS has been doing, and not merely for an overall YES or NO to the entire package.

"Such questions would serve to predict ratification or rejection of individual amendments, if the electorate were allowed to vote on separate amendments in the plebistite for the purpose.

On the other hand, in case a new proposed Constitution will be presented for ratification in toto by the Filipino people, as was done in Peiguary 1987, then the way to predict the outcome would be by likewise asking for a single YES or NO in a pre-plebiscite survey.

"Nevertheless, so as not to only predict but also analyze the expected outcome, one would still need data on the public's awareness of, and opinions about, each of the separate components of the constitutional revision package."

That is all very well and good.

But if that were indeed the rationale for the questions to the respondents, one has to wonder at how the question on a parliamentary system-which is really the major, if not the only, proposed structural change to the Constitution was posed. While the question on economic liberalization was direct-do you favor (etc.) the lessening of restrictions on foreign participation in the aconomy?--- the question on parliamentary system was: do you favor ... a change letting the chief executive be voted by the legislators instead of directly by voters? (Nota Bene: the word "parliament" or "parliamentary" does not appear in the question.)

One has to wonder what the response would have been if what had been asked were: Do you favor a change where the legislators are also the executives? Or, do you favor a change where the legislators are also members of the Cabinet? One does not have to wonder what the response would be if the question had been put even more directly: Are you in favor of a change to a parliamentary system (defined in an appropriate manner)?

And one has to wonder why, given that the subject matter was constitutional change, there was a disproportionate number of questions on GMA-to the extent that where for two years the question was whether one approved or disapproved of allowing past presidents to become prime minister, the current formulation only names Arroyo. The answer to that question, by the way, must have discombobulated Arroyo-haters: Where 55 percent of respondents disapproved of past presidents becoming prime minister (in August 2005), significantly less (43 percent) disapproved of GMA becoming prime minister, Horrors!

And let's face it, no way will the legislators allow the public to vote on each individual "reform." Why? Because even assuming heroically that this would be feasible, the likelihood of the parliamentary shift being approved, which is what they really want, is minimal. The Pulse Asia study shows that public opinion is against it by more than 2 to 1, a rado that hasn't changed in more than two years. The only chance of having the parliamentary shift approved is to package it with other, more attrac-

tive, changes. Therefore, the SWS survey notwithstanding, there has been no change in public opinion. Filipinos are still against constitutional change at this time, and neither has anything changed in their stance against a parliamentary system. So all that the SWS survey has done is give comfort to the constitutional change advocates and Gloria-haters-except that this is really cold comfort.

Books

IN RICKY CARANDANG'S MAIDEN INTERVIEW In his brand-new TV program, "The Big Picture," Speaker Jose de Venecia sounded like the perpetual optimist that he is. He looked back over the past 15 years since he began espousing the shift to the parliamentary/unicameral form of government and scanned the prospects of this political course for the country. Ever the super-salesman, JDV relentlessly underscored the strengths of the new system as exemplified by so many progressive countries around the world, as well as the possible ways to implement the shift here. Carandang could only nod in agreement. But in reality, the sea of public opinion through which JDV has to navigate his advocacy is full of tricky shoats, and this veteran politico would need all his vaunted skills to maneuver through all these obstacles. The trickiest among them is how to convince the senators to look beyond self-preserva-

JDV batted for the French model where a strong president and a transition prime minister will share government powers. Thus, he cemented his position squarely behind President Macapagal-Arroyo. But after 2010, said JDV the fulcrum shifts to a powerful PM and a "ceremonial" President, as in the British model. And herein lies the conflict between JDV and former President Ramos, who reportedly continues to advocate GMA's fadeaway, despita the cognac and chocolates and the toothy photos of last Wednesday evening's "win-win" dinner at the Macapagals' Forbes Park home.

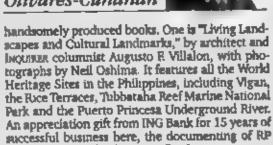
tion so they can see the merits of this system.

All eyes will be on today's meeting of the Lakas national directorate at the Manila Hotel. My own guess is that FVR will bow to the majority decision to uphold JDV's formula, and that the softening factor would be in the top party leaders' interpretation of power-sharing between the President and the transition PM.

While the politicos play their tug-of-war, let's talk about things that delight the heart, such as books. Among the cherished Christmas gifts my husband and I got were several excellent and

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan



heritage sites took 16 years to finish.

Another gift-book is "Through Food & Memories"-eubtitled "A Compilation of Our Pamily's Payorite Recipes"—charmingly put together by members of the huge Aboitiz-Moraza clan now living in various parts of the world. The family cookbook features very doable recipes cooked and photographed in their homes. Some recipes are featured in the original handwriting, reminding me so much of the penmanship of my mother's generation, with its careful, upright strokes. This shows that the Aboitizes grew up and old-with these recipes literally eating their way to family solidarity for generations. What a splendid idea.

A gift-book from Doris Magsaysay-Ho of Magsaysay Lines is on her famous paintermother, titled "Anita Magsaysay-Ho, in Praise of Women." Written by art critic Alfredo Roces, it traces the evolution of this esteemed artist from her bucolic childhood vacations in her native Zambales, through her UP education and her independent struggle to perfect her craft in the United States. The book encompasses over 300 works of art that celebrate "the spiendor of women as they go about their daily work with

reverence and Joy? Some paintings are atmotated by Magsaysay-Ho herself.

Another book (available by Peb. 1) is "Personalizing Russia"-with the subtitle "(even by those who know her little but love her much)"-written by Carmelite Sister Teresa Joseph Patrick of Jesus and Mary, formerly Prof. Josefina Constanting, one of the great UP professors in the '50s and '60s. Her two-volume 600-page set is a sequel to her first 94-page work about Russia titied "Sunburst in Parched, Snowy Russia," which she wrote following her two-and-a-half months' stay in Moscow in 1994. At that time, the nun delivered three talks on such subjects as ecology and aesthetics; science, religion and monastic culture, and the Philippines as part of Nu Santara or the old Madjapabilt Empire. "Personalizing Russia," as Sister Teresa told this columnist, is a "smorgasbord of a book": after the introduction, the reader can chose to read any chapter that strikes his fancy because every chapter is complete in itself. Chapter II, for instance, is a tribute to Jaume Cardinal Sin, in commemoration of his highly successful 1987 visit to Russia, whose Christianity he described as a "Marian Christianity." There are also many "kwento-style" stories such as her pilgrimage to Vilnius and her meeting with Mother Teresa's sisters in St. Petersburg. But the author does not neglect the incredible phenomenon of the collapse of the Soviet Empire and the awakening of the Russian people to the challenge of rehabilitation and renaissance.

Sister Teresa admits that what triggered this book was the late Pope John Paul II's frustration at not being able to visit Moscow and make a personal love-offering of the most cherished Russian scon (Our Lady of Kazan) to Russian Patriach Alexy II. She said that when she read about his frustration, "The Spirit tugged relentlessly in my heart and gave me no peace." She began this book when JPH was already sick and she prayed that "through the Spirit's guidance, I might be able to contribute this tiny, tiny effort toward the same end" of reconciliation between the Ortho-

dox and Latin Churches.

Tagaytay weddings

Only in Tagaytay and, perhaps, Bagulo would a tea-and-coffee bar be necessary, for

the relief of chilled guests—though the buffet,

including a whole roasted calf, was substantial

While most of the guests chose to drive up to and from Tagaytay that same day, a number of

us, including our party, decided to make an en-tire weekend of it. Through the years, given

Tagaytay's growing popularity as a tourist des-

tination, numerous hotels, inns, and "bed-

and-breakfast" places have sprouted in the

city and environs. The wedding party itself

was billeted at the Days Hotel, mainly to be

near the church; while Annie's extended fami-

ly stayed in their condominium units at Tagay-

tay Royale. In fact, Annie hosted a post-wed-

ding brunch at the Tagaytay Royale Clubhouse

for everyone who stayed overnight, extending

I WENT up to Tagaytay the day before the wed-

ding with Chona and her family. I had booked us

at the Lavender Cottage of Sonya's Bed and

Breakfast, which is the biggest cottage in her

Sonya's has become well-known among the

family, since I make it a point to bring to the place

friends and relatives visiting from abroad, and al-

most always it has created a most favorable im-

pression. In fact, Cest told me that her cousin

Fani, my late sister Neneng's daughter, called her

from Arizona just to tell her to make sure to ask

me to bring them to Sonya's. It would be an expe-

And indeed, by the end of our stay, Cesi and her

rience "you'll never forget," Fani said

complex of 10 quaint "shabby chic" structures.

the celebration and camaraderie.

Rina Jimenez-David

colorful garlanded awnings.

enough to warm us.

DRIVING FROM THE TAGAYTAY ROTUNDA TO Sonya's Garden in Alfonso, one spots signs and banners posted on various street corners: "This way to the XYZ-ABC wedding," "To reception of 123-456 Wedding," "Welcome Guests to the MMM-NNN Nuptials)*

If one ever needed proof that Tagaytay is fast becoming a popular venue for weddings, these signs were it, for aside from the celebrations in rather obscure locales—thus the need for directional signs—there were other weddings in bet-

One of these was the wedding of Judy Ann Cruz and Angelo Malabanan last Jan. 7, for which my brothers and sisters and I and our spouses had made the trip. Judy Ann, known as Jay, is the daughter of Annie Masakayan Cruz and her late husband Danny, who is the brother of Willie, my sister Chona's husband. Even by the extremely wide scope of Filipino kinship ties, our links to the newlyweds are tenuous at best. But our relationship with Annie and her family defies the strict boundaries of blood ties, which was why we were all there that chilly, rainy weekend.

Chona and her family had even come all the ly from Virginia for the wedding, which had been in the works since early last year. Chona was one of the principal sponsors, her daughter Cesi was a maid of honor, and the two boys Rico and Alan were readers. Willie was to stand in for his brother, since Jay had earlier decrared it had been her childhood dream to be walked down the aisle

THE WEDDING rituals were held at the newlyconstructed Our Lady of Lourdes Church, just a few meters from the rotunda. The whole row of us, Jimenez women, started tearing up the moment we saw Willie take Jay's arm and escort her to her waiting groom-as did most of the women sponsors, reported Chona.

But weddings are inherently happy occasions, and even the unexpected showers failed to dampen the joy and warmth of the wedding party. The dinner reception was held at the gardens of the family-owned Josephine's Restaurant, and fortunately the wedding planners had the foresight to erect white tents with husband Rob were vowing to make a return visit tay.

and to stay longer at Sonya's, perhaps at one of

usual menu supplemented by tender roasted chicken, we each went for a full-body massage at the in-house Spa, a most fortunate decision as it

An overnight package at Sonya's includes a substantial and delicious breakfast, including daing no bangus and adobo cooked two ways. Which was fortunate, because the day was packed with activity, what with the arrival of the rest of the family, and rushing back and forth across Tagaytay, including going for hair and make-up preparations at the local David's Salon, not to mention the wedding itself

ON THE SAME evening of the wedding, Sonya's also played host to the birthday party of interior designer Sonia Olivares, who brought about a hundred guests for dinner and dancing at the Conservatory, a large glass curtain," a continuously flowing stream of wa-

"Didn't you hear the racket we were making?" Sonya asked me the next morning. In truth, we could not because we were making our own racket, having surprised Chona on her birthday with an impromptu cake-and-

The next morning, Sonya took us for a looksee at the preparations for the party of another client, a combined 35th wedding anniversary and a religious rite for the couple's daughter and her husband who had married abroad. The Mass was to be celebrated in Sonya's main greenhouse, a most charming setting amid pots of herbs and shrubs, with the altar planted under a natural awning of Morning Glory

sions we could use as an excuse to hold a similar event in the greenhouse. Another reason to wed-or re-wed-in chilly, charming Tagay-

the two "honeymoon" cottages. AT LARGE

On our first night, after a dinner of Sonya's proved to be the best pre-slumber ritual.

pavilion that combines a dining area with an indoor garden. A recent addition is the "water ter down the glass ceiling and walls, which also serves to lower the temperature inside.

wine reception.

and ivy, and guests seated on rustic benches.

We "girls" all mentally reviewed what occa-

Different, that's all

The Laboratory of the State of

MY BROTHER WILL PROBABLY NOT APPROVE OF WHAT I am going to say. He berates me for not treating myself better. Or maybe it's because I whine a lot, It does not matter.

There are days when I wish I were "normal." But normalcy is relative. So, the logical question to ask is, "By whose stars

Not by my standards. I wish I were "normal" by society's standards. My life

would be less complicated, I'm pretty sure Young BLOOD

But I really like being me, And that's Ning Sardillo the problem. I want to be less of me; and We want to know what the young more like other peo- are thinking about. What are their ple. Yet, I am reiuc- thoughts on current issues? We tant to let "me" go. welcome contributions from the It's not easy being twentysomething and below.-- Ed.

Maybe that's the reason why God loves me so much. He probably finds me quite amusing. He has a good sense of humor. Most people don't know that about Him. But try being me for a few hours, and you will be convinced that God has a good sense of humon

I am not better. I am not worse, I am just different. I wish I were not so different. Better yet, I wish people were more tolerant of aberrations. I wish people were less hurtful and more tolerant of things and people they don't understand. I wish people would just let me be. I wish they could just leave God and me alone. I wish I were the person that God has always wanted me to be.

I'm not better, compared to other people. Deep down, I believe that there's a better version of me. I also know that d could be that better version of me. I just have to find her, like her and be her.

See? Who needs these thoughts? Why do I feel compelled to find and be the better version of me? Why do I long for

Why does God love me when most people can't seem to tolerate my presence? Will I ever be "normal" by society's standards? Will society ever be "normal" by my standards?

But, life is too precious and too short to waste, right? What I'm desperately trying to say is this: I do not want to wait for the time when society finally approves of me. I cannot afford to wait. I do not have the luxury of time. Call me a pessimist, but I seriously doubt if that will ever happen.

My parents believe that I am their most unreasonable child. I refuse to change for other people. This is non-nego-

I would be lying if I were to say that my life has just been dandy because of my stubbornness. It has not been easy, I kid

My simplistic take on my seeming dissatisfaction is the fact that I have always been scared to show off the traits that set me apart from the rest of the world. I've always been ashamed to be different.

i offer no quick fix for people like me. I'm not big on dishing out advice, because every person is different. I may share something in common with another girl or boy, but I am still different. So, what might work for me may not necessarily work for the next person.

Let me, however, share what I intend to do with the rest of my life. I am making peace with the fact that I am different. At 28, I have never had a boyfriend. And it's not because I'm gay. My first passion was Math, but I am a lawyer by profession. I'm chubby, but I enjoy wall climbing and running very much. When I am depressed, I run to the nearest church or chapel to be with God. When I feel like I've hit rock bottom, I close my eyes and imagine being hugged-by Jesus (and it works). I say a very short prayer, which good something like this: "Please, don't let go. I need your help."

I love books. I don't care much for clothes, I get dizzy shopping for clothes. I like to drive really fast. More than the speed, I like the feel of the wind against my face. (Of course,] can only do this when the streets are practically deserted.).

I like to be alone some days with my thoughts. I cannot cook-even if my life depended on it. If the fate of the world depended on my cooking, I am sorry the world as we know it would just cease to exist. I can, however, fix a decent cup of coffee, tea or milk.

I'm probably the only Filipino who does not enjoy eating rice and it's not even because I am on a diet. I love fish-the live ones and especially when they're cooked.

I love to laugh and believe that my life is one telenovela! I'm hard-headed and naughty, but sweet and loyal to those who bother to stick around. I am all this and more. Just call me "confusion person-

fied," because that is what I am. And I'm pretty sure that the people around me-my family

by and friends—are always in a state of confusion, too. Let me say it again and this time with as much pride as [can muster: "My name is Ning. I am different."

I do not know where my adventure will bring me. But I am glad that God will keep me company all throughout my jour;

I am sure God will beckon me to come home when I have finally learned the lessons and lived out my purpose.

Strange as I may appear, I'm sure I'm also just like everyone else. I'm just trying to figure out my purpose for being. Like everyone else, I cry when I'm hurt. I also try to laugh ev-

ery chance I get. Here's the thing: To be the kind of person that God wants me to be is, I think, no different from aspiring to be the best

daughter, sister and friend I forgot to mention something else about me: I can't sing, but I love to listen to all kinds of music. On that note, let my quote from my favorite song, "I Don't Wanna Be," by Gavin DeGraw It goes like this

I don't want to be anything other than what I've been trying

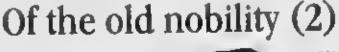
All I have to do is listen to me and I've peace of mind I'm tired of looking 'round rooms wondering what I gotte do Or who I'm supposed to be

I don't want to be anything other than me. Ning Sardillo, 29, got her master of laws from Georgetows University and now works in a law firm based in Makati.

NOTICE TO YOUNGBLOOD CONTRIBUTORS:

Send your contributions by e-mail to youngblood@inquirer.com.ph together with your address, age and the school," course and year you're enrolled in or, if employed, the posttion you're holding and the company you work with. Contributions to Youngblood should not have been previously.

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IF YOU REMEMBER, DATU PAGBUAYA RULED Bohol and the island of Pagbilao after his brother, Dailisan, was killed in the battle with the Terrenates. Pagbuaya pledged loyalty to Legaspl in 1565 and converted to Christianity. He had a son, Manooc, eventually known as Don Pedro Manuel Manooc; and a daughter, Doña Magdaiena Baluyot. Our story concerns this woman who beckons to us from across the centuries.

The religious orders, especially in the early days of their evangelization work in the Philippines, did not have enough friars for the missions. Pour years after the opening of the Butuan mission, the Jesuit superior opted for some retrenchment and wrote to the bishop in Cebu, offering to return the mission to the secular clergy. By 1600, there was only one Jesuit left in Butuan. Two years later, a Portuguese secular, who was unfortunately as corrupt as the encomiendero Francisco de Poso, took over. Between the two of them, they managed to turn the converts against Spain and everyone connected with it. When the people revolted, the two paid with their lives.

Under Silongan, then the most powerful of the danus, the rebels joined the Caragans who had the reputation for being nasty and bloodthirsty. The latter had been having a field day pillaging the coastal villages of Leyte and the Camotes Islands. They had even kidnapped the parish priest of Dulag in Leyta, keeping him in Cotabato. (In the account of Fr. Meichor Hurtado's capture, it is said that at first he hid in the hollow of a tree, which was formed by enormous roots that rose from the earth. Unfortunately, due to incessant logging legal and illegal-nelther you nor I nor any of our descendents will ever see a tree of that grandness in this country.) A corsair dragged him to the beach in Dulag where he was presented to Bulsan, (also known as Capitan Laut-captain of the high seas-by his people), the leader of the raiding armada. Corralat or Kudarat was Bulean's son, who eagerly anticipated the ran-

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY



som. The journey to Mindanao took five months. When a force under Gent Juan de la Vega was sent after them, they merely retreated to the mountains and avoided battle.

In this state of war, the people living along the coasts of Surigao, Davao and the Agusan River also went into hiding. The Jesuita were naturally upset and asked the local authorities not to use force but to let Fr. Fabricio Sarsali try to win Sliongan back. (if you will recall, Silongan was mentioned by Miguel de Loarca in an account, dated 1582, telling his father, the datu, to send samples of gold in two bamboo tubes, thick as a man's leg, for the captain-general in Manila. In another chronicle, Fr. Pedro Chirino, S.J., related a story about Stiongan's bravery, it is said that he went to the riverbank of the Buttian River unaccompanied "with dignified pace and somber garb, carrying a fan," to watch two Spanish ships carrying a bridal party. When the soldiers saw him they opened fire to scare him, not really to harm him. But that caused him neither agitation nor anger "than if the matter were some jest which he disregarded," Such was

the man's reputation for bravery.) Accompanied by an armed escort provided by the governor of Cebu, Pather Sarsali went to Butuan but found the settlement there abandoned. He and his companions had no way of getting in touch with Silongan. This worried them because they knew that whoever Silongan sided-whether he goes for or against Spain-his

people would follow. He was after all the most re-

At this point, Father Sarsali suggested getting in touch with Doffa Magdalena Baluyot, who was known to have had much influence with the Subanos. Through her power of persuasion rather than by force of arms, she had earlier convinced them to receive the missionaries. This time, Dona Magdalena was again asked to intercede and to reassure Silongan that he had nothing to fear. The story goes that she rowed herself in a baroto (banca) through mangrove swamps to look for Silongan, calling on him to come out into the open and talk things over. Thanks again to her power of persussion, she was able to convince him to see Father Sarsali alone on an islet. Before the meeting, Silongan's people furtively observed the priest from their hiding places in the thickets and from treetops. When they saw the priest was alone, they reconnoitered the river. Assured thus that the priest was truly all by himself, Silongan appeared.

Silongan embraced the Jesuit who assured him all was forgiven. Thus without shedding a drop of blood, Butuan was returned to the fold. It was explained to the captain and his soldiers that it was important to treat the prince properly and to preserve his friendship so that all his subjects would be converted as well. Without him, conversion would be impossible

A demonstration of Silongan's power was displayed when he was requested to return to his home and in six hours a town arose, complete with screets and houses. Under his orders his people went to work: some raising house posts, others thatching roofs, still others constructing the walls, It is also told that he had five wives and was able to give up three of them. But there was one concubine that he was unusually fond of, and that one he kept much to the regret of the Jesuits.

Comments at bambiharper@yahoa.com

OPINION

Independent Supreme Court?

of Hilano Davide Jr. as Chief Justice is that, during his watch, the Supreme Court, for the first time in its history, obtained millions of dollars in loans and grants from foreign funding institutions, such as the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the World Bank (WB), the United States Agency for Internanonal Development (US-AID), the Canadian International Development Agency (CIDA), the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAid) and the European Community

In a recent ADB-sponsored forum, Justice (now Chief Justice) Artemio Panganiban proudly mentioned these loans and grants, but he d'd not state how much each foreign funding institution had given the Supreme Court. Neither did he state the total loans meddling. But is the judiciary, in-

THE UNPRECEDENTED LEGACY and grants the Supreme Court had cluding the Supreme Court and received. Not being a money-making institution, it is not also clear how the Supreme Court will pay its foreign debts.

In his valedictory talk as Chief Justice, Davide claimed that under his leadership the Supreme Court kept its "independence." From Malacanang and Congress? If he really did, he merely complied with Section 3, Article VIII of the Constitution which reads. "The judiciary shall enjoy fiscal autonomy. Appropriations for the Judiciary may not be reduced by the legislature below the amount appropriated for the previous year and, after approval, shall be automatically and regularly re-

In other words, the Constitution expressly shields the judiciary from legislative and executive

the Chief Justice, immune from the molestations of foreign funding institutions to which the Supreme Court is indebted? After all, these foreign funding institutions are known lobbyists for behind the-scene arm-twisters in the service of transnational interest? Why should the Supreme Court open itself to the predatory maneuvers of foreign-funding institutions by obtaining foreign loans and grants?

In the interest of transparency and accountability, is it not fitting and proper that the Panganiban Court make public exactly how much in loans and in grants the Davide Court got?

-- AMADO GAT INCIONG, Unit 301 Union Square Condomisuum, 145 15th Avenue, Cubao, Quezon City

with the participation of our socalled Mana Claras. What a

It is about time for the president of UP and its chief of police to tender their resignation of apa-

> -MAJ. RB MORATA (ret) PC, 104 Chico St., Comembo, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City



Gov't duplicity on coco levy scam

MORE POWER TO THE AUTHOR of the article bued "Unleashing the coco potential." (PDI, 1/2/06)

The coco levy scam is the biggest tragedy that befell the Filipino coconut farmers. The sad part is that the perpetrators of this scam are blatantly thumbing their noses at the Filipino people despite the Supreme Court decision declaring the coco levy a public fund.

I come from a family whose main-source of income used to be the coconut farm, and I have witnessed the arrogance of the perpetrators during the Marcos regime. I am sick to the stomach every time I come across news reports that seem to suggest that they are getting away with it in spite of the People Power Revolution.

I am totally disgusted every time I sense the displicity of government officials playing politics with this fund for political expediency. I just wish to God that they will realize what is right and what is wrong in this world. But, maybe, it is too much to ask for from our current government leaders who are clearly of mediocre stuff

-EUCLID DAYANGHIRANG. epsd2001@yahoo.com

Chief Justice's 'non-interventionism'

IN THE INQUIRER'S DEC. 23, 2005 issue, it was reported that the newly appointed Chief Justice Artemio Panganiban "vowed to steer the Supreme Court away from the controversial interventionist' policy of his predeces-

Quite frankly, and with due respect, I do not clearly understand what the Chief Justice means by "interventionist" policy. If he was referring to non-interference by the Supreme Court on "political questions," this has been a long established rule of law, not merely a policy. The Supreme Court has consistently held that it is not there has been a grave abuse political questions. (Tañada vs. Cuenco L-16520, Feb. 28,1965)

But on Page 5 of the same issue, there was mention of at least four business contracts and one legislative enactment set aside by the Supreme Court either for graft and corruption or unconstitutionality. These were cited as exam- such duty by the simple exped ent vention in business

It is my humble view that the Supreme Court has every right and authority, drawn from the Constitution, to nullify contracts or transactions entered into by the other departments or agencies of the government, when

these are tainted with graft and corruption. Must the Supreme Court wash its hands on irregular and graft-ridden government contracts simply because they are related to economic or finance policies/programs of either the executive or legislative branches? Who will then protect the people against plunderers of public resources?

The Constitution defines judicial power as "the duty of the courts of justice to settle controversies involving rights which are legally demandable and enforceable, and to determine whether or without authority to determine of discretion amounting to lack of jurisdiction on the part of any branch or instrumentality of the So, no new policy need be set on Government." (Sec 1, Article VIII, Phil. Constitution)

So long as there is a justiceable issue within the purview of judic.al power, the Supreme Court must take cognizance and rule thereon. It is its duty to the people and God. It cannot be recreant to ples of the Supreme Court's inter- of a so-called "non-interventionast" policy.

I hope the Chief Justice will clarify what he means by "non-interventionist" policy.

-REX G. RICO. 4/F Cattleya Condominium, 23S Salcedo St., Legaspi Village, Makati City

Maria Claras in UP's streaking festival

SOME YEARS BACK, A GROUP OF male streakers paraded their naked bodies inside the UP campus to the delight of salivating homosexuals and shricking young women. For a while, I viewed that part of the University of the Philippines as a jungle inhabited by Indian tribes from the remote virgin forests of Brazil, forgetting that it was a prime institution of learning in the country.

The scene was repeated a couple of times perhaps, and the public was hopeful that through the efforts of both the UP president and the chief of UP police, this barbane display of exhibitionism

would finally come to an end. But with a woman President at the university's helm, UP's annual streaking festiva, has gone from bad to worse, and now it is held

shame to our Filipino culture of modesty.



pretations in the news report titled "Group of 90 developing nations wins first round in WTO battle " (PDI, 12/20/05)

I never said that the World Trade Organization's 6th Ministerial Conference in Hong Kong was a "first-round win" for the developing countries. In the WTO, developing and least developed countries (LDCs) have never won a round. At the most, negotiations fail or get bogged down (Seartle, 1999 Cancun, 2002), buying some time for developing countries to prepare for globalization's next assault on their markets. The approved WTO ministerial declaration in Hong Kong is being trumpered as a breakthrough because of (1) its supposed package for LDCs, and (2) its compromise deadline of 2013 for the scrapping of the developed countries' trade-distorting agricultural export subsidies. But in reality, developing countries and LDCs have not been given a substantial break in global trade. The WTO's development agenda remains in the realm of token concessions, general statements and high falutin rhetoric

For developing countries like the Philippines, the ministerial declaration is a prescripnon for even deeper tanif cuts in agriculture more up of our services sec-

This will be disastrous especially for Philippine agriculture and industry because previous liberalization programs had already drastically cut tariffs and bound them to absurdly low rates, leaving us with almost nothing to negotiate on

In the area of services, Annex C of the ministeria, declaration cites 19 sectors to be considered for liberalization, namely legal services, computer and other related services, postal and courier services, telecommunications and audio visual services, construction and related engineering services, distribution services, education, energy, environmental services, financial services, health, tourism, maritime transport, air transport and other transport services, logistics, other professional and business services. As the Philippine economy's main sources of growth, we cannot risk having foreign corporations dominate and control these industries

The Hong Kong declaration gives us until April 2006 before another munsterial meeting will be held, most likely to finalize the new commitments. But we can t be buying time forever Ten years is enough to prove that the WTO serves the interests of monopoly corporations and banks in the industrialized countries-at the expense of the majority of the world's peoples and nations. The Hong Kong talks prove once more that the WTO's development agenda is a sham.

Thus, we are urging the Philippine government to reconsider its membership in the trade body. We believe that future WTO commitments outlined in the approved ministeria. declaration will only hinder the country's development efforts.

RER TEODORO A. CASIÑO, Bayan Muna Party List, S-616, House of Representatives, Batasan Complex, Dillman, Quezon City

We thank Rep. Teodoro Casiño for trying to "correct certain misinterpretations." However, the lead (first) paragraph was never attributed to Representative Casiño. It was the summary of a long story cut short due to space constraints.

-MICHAEL LIM UBAC, PDI reporter

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House sets probe of Rapu-Rapu help to stop Lafayette mining mining

SORSOGON-THE House committee on environment would investigate the entire mining operations of the Lafayette Philippines Inc. to determine whether or not the Austrahan firm is following the standards set by the government for mining operations in the country as mandated by the Mining Act.

Rep. Jose Soils (2nd District, Sorsogon), vice chair of the House environment committee, said he had already filed a resolution seeking a House inquiry based on complants filed by four mayors from his district whose towns suffered millions of pesos in fishing income loss as a result of the toxic spill from Lafayette's mining operations in Rapu-Rapu Island in Albay.

He said the investigation would be held notwithstanding the fines imposed by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, which found the company responsible for negagence.

The Podution Adjudication Board earlier s.apped a P10.7-million fine on Lafayette while the Mine Rehabilitation Fund Committee imposed a P300,000 fine for two cyanide spills last year.

Sohs said the committee awaits the referral by the plenary once Congress resumes its ses-

sion on Jan. 16. He said the investigation should determine if there are new provisions in the Mining Act that must be introduced to ensure computance by mining companies, he said.

Vigilance

"Although we welcome foreign investors here, we must also be vigilant for any violation that they commit which could endanger the life and byelthood of our people and our environment. Development could not take precedence over the interest of the greater majority," the lawmaker said

Sorsogon City Mayor Sally Lee said the local government unit would proceed with its independent investigation of the chemical contamination in Sorsogon's waters despite the action taken by the DENR against the foreign

Lee said Gov. Raus Lee had already invited the National Science Research Institute to conduct a study on the sea waters of Sorsogon and Rapu-Rapu to determine mercury levels in them.

Reports of mercury contamination, earlier disclosed by the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, iriggered a fish scare in the towns of Prieto-Diaz, Gubat, Bulusan and Barcelona and Sorsogon City.

Lafavette executives flatly denied that their firm was the source of mercury, saying the company does not use mercury in its operations. Bobby Q. Labalan, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

SORSOGON Sorsogon Bishop Arturo Bastes will seek help from the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines (CBCP) to press for the cancellation of the mining permit of the Australian Lafayette Mining Inc. and the closure of the Rapu-Rapu Processing Inc. that it operates in the municipality of Rapu-Rapu, Albay.

Bastes said he will bring the issue before the CBCP when it convenes next week in Manila for its regular conference that will start Jan. 23.

The bishop said he will seek the support of other bishops in



the entire Bicol region as a "mining free area" similar to the CBCP's strong position against

logging in the Samar region. "Experts have told us that min- within the typhoon belt," he said.

asking the government to declare ung in the Bicol region will always cause disaster, both to the population and the environment, because of its mountainous location and the rainy weather condition as it is

Sorsogon bishop to seek CBCP

Bastes said all the priests were unanimous in their position during a recent diocesan assembly to ask the government to cancel the permit or authority of Lafayette to do mining in Rapu-Rapu.

"But prior to bringing the issue to the CBCP meeting, the local Catholic Church here will conduct another consultation to gather more evidence on the illeffects of the mining operation," the prelate told the INQUIRER.

The Church-run Social Action Center, he added, is now collating data, which will be submitted to the CBCP, so a strong case can be made against the mining firm.

"We will seek an audience with the President so we can make known our position, which is closure of the mining operations,"

Informed of the P10.7-million fine imposed by the Pollution Adjudication Board (PAB) on Lafayette, the bishop said money should not be the main consideration of the government but the PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

welfare of the people and protection of the environment.

The mining operation on Rapu-Rapu island had been blamed for the toxic spill which caused fish scares and huge losses to the fishing industry in Sorsogon province.

Rod Watt, Lafayette Philippine's country manager, would not assue any comment on Bishop Bastes' plan to bring the issue to

Watt, however, said the compamy is studying the PAB's decision to slap fines for the mine spills.

We are at the moment studying the order and preparing a response to address the issues, which will then be discussed with the PAB. We are studying all opnons and are optimistic that we can settle the matter sooner rather than later," he said.

"We are currently working with government and non government organizations to fully alleviate concerns," he added. Bobby Q. Labalan and Gil Francis G. Arevalo,



PART OF THE CROWD

BURLIT MARCHIEZ/AS

A member of the Philippine National Police Special Action Force (SAF) is flanked by Muslims as they attend prayers in celebration of Eid'l Adha (Feast of Sacrifice) at the Blue Mosque in Taguig. The SAF was deployed to guard pailed Muslim leader Nur Misuari, former chief of the secessionist MNLF, who was given a six-hour furlough to be able to attend the celebration.

German, wife hunted for murder of tenant in Albay

TABACO CITY-A MANHUNT IS on against a German national and his Filipino wife for the alleged murder of their tenant, who tilled city, for murder. their newly bought rice field in Malinao, Albay.

Judge Virginia Almonte, presiding judge of the Tabaco Regional Trial Court Branch 17, earlier issued a warrant of arrest

against Marcos Sampiles and wife Annielyn Sampiles, residents of Barangay, Pawa in this

Almonte recommended no bail. The manhunt for Sampiles came following the surrender of Melchor Ramoran, a resident of Barangay San Lorenzo, also in this city, after severa, months of hiding.

They were tagged as conspirators in the murder of one Ernesto Bragais, 60, a resident of Pawa, Tabaco City, who was found dead in the middle of the rice field he was tilling sometime in August 2004. Bragais suffered seven stab and hack wounds.

Annaliza Bragais, the victim's granddaughter, alerted the posice

about seeing the suspects driving a Starex van downtown after Ramoran's surrender. She said the couple started to

go into hiding on Jan. 1.

Ramoran confessed he was solely responsible for the crime, but police believe the Sampiles couple masterminded it. Job B. Belen, PDI Southern Luson Bureau

ROUNDUP

Another militant leader slain

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—A leader of the party-list group Bayan Muna in Peñaranda, Nueva Eclia, was found dead on Wednesday, a day after he was abducted by armed men, a report from the Bagong Alyansang Makabayan (Bayan) said. The body of Armando Leabres was discovered in San lidefonso, Bulacan, more than 50 km from where he was abducted said Roman Polintan, Bayan Central Luzon chair Polintan said the military was considered a suspect in the killing. He said in a meeting fast week, Leabres expressed fear for his life after receiving a warning from a soldier

Tonatte Orejas, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Vizcaya posts first meningo case

BAYOMBONG, Nueva Vizcaya—Health officials on Thursday confirmed the presence of the province's first suspected case of meningococcemia involving a 7-year-old boy from Sarangay Bonfal Proper here. But Dr. Napoleon Obaña, chief of ctimics of the state-run Veterans Regional Hospital here said the boy had "positively responded to medication and was well on his way to recovery " "We considered it as a confirmed case, and we treated him the way we treat meningococcemia (even without the prior continuation). It's a good thing he has responded very well " Obaña said

Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Burgau

Insurance tied to killing

GENERAL SANTOS CITY-Ponce are studying the possible link of a 100 million yen (P50 million) state insurance with the killing of Japanese nationai Yasuaki Sawada. Senior Supt. Alfredo Toroctocon. city police chief, toldthe Induses that the victim's father Yukio Sawada executed a sworn statement attesting that their son was insured by the Japanese government. Toroptocon said the father claimed in his statement that Satoshi Leda, a 4 close friend of Sawada who accompanied him in his travel from Japan to the Phiappines, was the beneficiary of the insurance. Sawada's parents, who is came here on Dec. 24 told po. ce Japanese authorities are also searching? for their son after he mysteriously disappeared. The parents said they were surprised to learn their son was already here.

Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Burésu

1kg of shabu seized

CEBU CITY-Anti-drug operatives yesterday seized a kilo of shabu, estimated to be worth between P2 million to P3 million, from a janitor of a passenger vessel that docked at a Cebu port. Cebu City Councilor Augustus Pe Jr, chair of the Cebu City committee on dangerous drugs, identified the suspect as Allan Abayan from Mambaling, Cebu City. Abayan was the janitor of MV Butuan Bay 1, owned by the Gothong Shipping Lines, which docked at the Bothong wharf in Mandaue City at around 7 a.m. yesterday from Ozamis City Abayan yesterday claimed he was not aware that he was carrying shabu (methamphetamine hydrochlor de). He said a certain Roland from Ozamis City handed him the packed plastic bag and requested him to hand it to someone who would claim it upon the boat's arrival in Cebu.

Workers get P3M

TACLOBAN CITY—The Department of Labor and Employment in Eastern Visayas reported that nearly P3 million was paid to workers as satttement of the labor cases they filed against their emp overs last year. Crispin Dannug, labor assistant regional director, said P2 923,037 was received by 2 052 workers in the region who flied complaints at the DOLE office. Most of the complaints are on employers' favore to pay the minimum wage



Joey A. Gabieta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Gloria sets 4-day holiday in 3 Cebu cities for Asean meet

By Jhunnex Napallacan PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—IT'S STILL ELEVEN months away but President Macapagal-Arroyo aiready declared there will be a four-day holiday in three Metro Cebu cities that will host the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Ascan) summit in December.

The President Thursday announced that from Dec. 11 to 14, 2006, it would be a non-working holiday in the Asean summit host cities of Cebu, Mandaue and La-

In her speech during the blessing and inauguration of Don Vicente Gulias Medical Center in Barangay Banilad, Mandaue City, the President said she was very proud that Cebu hosted around half of the 2.5 million foreign tourists who came to the Philippines last year.

"For all these many reasons, I found it so appropriate and the Asean leaders found it so appropriate that when we host the Asean summit this year, the Asean summit will be held in the cities of Cebu, Mandaue and Lapulapu," the President said.

meña cariter asked the President to declare a holiday in the host cities of the summit mainly for the security of the dele-

Osmeña said declaring a hollday during the four-day summit would make security preparations easier because there would be fewer people in streets and public places.

Osmeña had planned putting in place martial law-type security measures, such as a curfew and declaring certain areas of the city off ilmits to mendicants, for secu-

Cebu City Mayor Tomas Os- rity but he was dissuaded by allies concerned about human

> Declaring a non-working holiday in the host cities was more appropriate and was in keeping with the tradition of the other citles that had hosted both Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (Apec) and Aseen summits, the President yesterday said.

The President asked students, teachers and the employees to go on vacation in different beaches for the duration of the four-day



MS ARROYO in her favorite city in the South, Cebu.

INQUIRER Visayas

Editor Jun Bandayrel Bureau Chief Edralyn L. Benedicto

Sinulog Festival: Doing more with less

By Ahmed Cuizon Contributor

OING MORE WITH LESS. THIS SEEMS TO BE the prevailing theme in Cebu's "Smulog" mardi gras this weekend.

Paced with hard times, organizers are finding it harder to invite more sponsors and dance contangents to the colorful festi val that coincides with the annual feast of the Sto. Niño de Cebu-

The need for support was none more evident than when President Macapagal-Arroyo opened the Sinulog in Cebu City last week, the first time a President did in the festival's 26-year history.

"Prevailing economic conditions are really affecting the festivai," Sinulog Foundation executive director Ricky Ballesteros said. "But that will not stop us from maximizing efforts to ensure that spectators will not be signed up for both the Sinulogdisappointed."

Production cost of this year's staging is estimated at P20 million. The city government has shouldered P8 million of the amount, but the remainder has to pared to 32 from last year. come from sponsors.

Private sponsorship funds, however, have been depleted after Cebu hosted the 19th Philippune Advertising Congress and the 23rd Southeast Asian Games in November last year. "Most companies that we approached said they had other priorities this time," Ballesteros said

One of the regular sponsors, Smart Telecommunications, has drastically reduced its donation from last year's P5 million to only P2 miltion this year. Bound by an exclusivity contract, the Sinulog Foundation unable to accept aponsorships from rival telecom firms.

Other funding sources, such as fentals from sidewalk stall owners in the usual street fair fronting the Abeliana National School on Osmeña Boulevard have not been very promising either. Started in December, the two-month fair fetches P25,000 per stal.

Rekindling Interest

Previously, the fair stretched out to as far as the Cebu Normal University and the old Social Seeurity System complex on Osmeha Boulevard. This year, these places have been declared offlimits to stalls. Sales in the rethaining area have also slumped

"Our sales are weak because of the cusis. It's really different than before. We might not be able to come back and seil here again next year," said Ver Perez, 51, who sells trinkers and battk products from Davao City.

A supplier of leather belts and

wallets from Cotabato City, Shirley Bobantan, 30, also complained of low sales. "Our sales are lower than in the past four years. Many of us might even find it hard to pay rent."

Another income source, grandstand tickets to the Cebu City Sports Complex, where the street dancing will culminate, are not enough to ease the shortfall.

And as if news of the festival's low funds wasn't bad enough, the crunch has dampened the participation of several gward-winning out-of-town dance contingents conadered perennial crowd favorites.

So far, only 40 contingents have based and free interpretation dance categories, down from last year's 50. The figure is even much lower in the float competition, which has so far attracted only 18 entries com-

Explaining the drop, Ballesteros stressed that "last year's mardi gras was definitely bigger since it was the festival's 25th anniversary." Still, he gave assurance that organizers were pulling out all stops so that the Sinulog will not fail the expectations of some 3 million spectators.

As hotels and resorts are gradually being filled by tourists and balikbayans, the Sinulog Foundation has moved the deadline for accepting entries to the different contest categories from last week

Along with the introduction of other features and incentives, the effort has relandled new interest in this year's event. Already, new contingents from Passi City in Ilodo, Masbate City, Bishg City in Surigao del Sur, and Eastern Samar have signed up for the

MEMBERS of Pintaflores from San Carlos dance under the Free

Interpretation Category during the 2004 Sinulog Festival.



DANCERS belonging to the Pintados from San Carlos City, Negros Occidental, join the Sinulog 2004 in Cebu City.

march gras for the first time.

The new entrants will make up for the absence of traditional participating groups from other areas in Surigao del Norte, San Carlos City and Bayawan town in Negroz Oriental that begged off from joining this year's festivities due to economic reasons.

Depending on its concept, a contingent needs a budget of P500,000 to P1 million, with transportation for dancers to and from Cebu as the usual biggest expense item.

To help defray costs, festival organizers give cash assistance of P100,000 to "outsiders" who participated in the mardi gras in the



MEMBERS of the Tribs: Kuta from Camiguin perform a dance offering to the Sto. Nino.

pass three years. To save on accom- age groups to adopt measures modation costs, they are housed in public schools and provided shutthe services within the city.

Austerity measures

From the old to the new, austenty measures and modified rules help retain Sinulog's appeal amid hard times.

"To trim expenses, we encour-

like practicing only after lunch in order to save on meals," said Dolores Suzara, the Sinulog Foundation's project director

"Other groups also recycle twoor three-year-old costumes by changing, refurbishing or adding accessories to make them look new. With ingenuity and creativity, they can still look their best in their old costumes," she said.

Huge props and mobile backdrops that only add more expenses are strongly discouraged, Suzara said, "The Sinulog, after all, is about venerating the Hosy Child through dance and not through extravagant props or backdrops."

To drive home the point, Suzara said judging the street dancing competitions would include a 20point deduction to the scores of contingents with huge props.

Another incentive to draw more participants is wider med.a. exposure that will benefit provinces like Camiguin, which regularly joins the Sinulog as part of its tourism promotion efforts

International and national television networks will cover the fes-

tival from its opening at 9 a.m. up to the fireworks displays at 7 p.m. Negotiations for live TV airings in Australia and the Middle East, and a three-hour delayed telecast in the United States are ongoing.

Organizers have also retained the P7.2-million budget for prizes in all competition categories, including the Sinulog Festival Queen and the new "See Cebu on a Carousel Route" on-site décor.

Worthwhile

To make winning more worthwhile for contingents, trophies featuring a gold-plated Sto. Niño and a 14-karat city logo will be given

City officials see no major diminution in this year's festivities. Despite the hard times, organizers are confident of mounting a grand Sinulog, complete with street parties, concerts, pageants and cultural events

As Vice Mayor Michael Rama, Sinulog Foundation chair, predicts, "more sponsors and participants will eventually turn out because the real reason people join in the Samiiog is to thank the Sto. Niño for the blessings they have received."

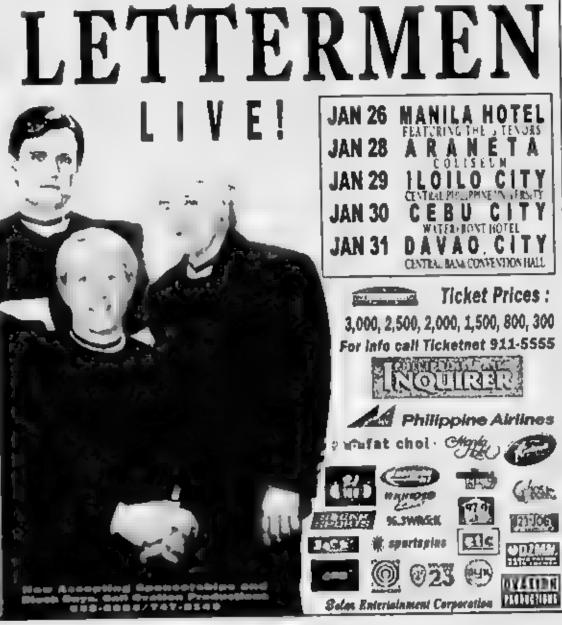


DEVOTEES carry their children to idsa the image of the Sto. Niño before It was transferred to St. Joseph Parish Church in Mandaue City. POLINOTO

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Editor Ester G. Dipasupil P11,379,355.20



CHILD'S PLAY

A boy steps nimbly on drainage pipes laid out for installation at a housing complex in Marikina City.

Friday the 13th brings woes to family

By DJ Yap

PRIDAY THE 13th PROVED TO BE AN unlucky day for a family in Quezon City when a 17-year-old boy stabbed his own mother dead and wounded his stepfather.

The boy, who works at a "peryahan" (fair grounds) on V Luna Road, admitted he was drunk when he killed his 46-year-old mother and injured her live-in partner inside their Mario Turiano.

house in Barangay Pinyahan

The police said the suspect was drinking with friends the might before the incident to celebrate his birthday when his stepsister teased him that his birthday should be the next day, Friday the 13th, believed to be an unlucky day.

A heated argument ensued and the suspect's stepsister reported the tiff to their father, who then scolded the boy, according to investigator PO3

At 3 a.m., the boy allegedly got a 16-inch krufe and stabbed his stepfather in the face and back, police said. He also stabbed his mother, a fish

vendor, when she tried to intervene. The mother was rushed to the East Avenue Medical Center, where she died later. The stepfather was treated

at the Capitol Medical Center. Turiano said the suspect would be charged with particide and frustrated

Manila court issues hold order vs Jaylo

By Margaux C. Ortiz

THE BELEAGUERED CHIEF OF THE DISbanded Presidential Anti-Illegal Recruitment Task Porce (PAIRTP) will have to stay in the country to face charges against him.

Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 28 Judge Nina Antonio-Valenzuela issued a hold departure order against former PAIRTF chief Reynaldo Jaylo on Thursday to prevent him from leaving the country.

A warrant of arrest had been issued two weeks ago against Jaylo, who is facing six counts of serious illegal detention cases.

Copies of the hold order were sent to the Bureau of Immigration (BI) and Department of Foreign Affairs (DFA)

The petition for a hold departure order was filed by Senior State Prosecutor Emmanuel Velasco on the request of National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) Special Task Force chief Regional Director Reynaldo Esmeralda.

The NBI official made the request for the filing of an "Urgent Ex-Parte Motion" in Judge Valenzuela's court for the hold departure or-

Valenzuela assued a warrant of arrest for Jaylo on Dec. 29. The court did not grant bail for the accused "because he was charged with several counts of a capital offense."

"Jaylo is already on the BI watchlist," Esmeralda said in an earlier interview.

He said the bureau had instructed its office at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport to arrest the former PAIRTF chief if he is spotted

Esmeralda also said he had sent out two teams to scour the metropolis to check on Jaylo's whereabouts.

"We believe he is still in Metro Manila," the NBI official said.

Esmeralda stressed that if Jaylo surrendered to him, he would make sure that the former PAIRTF chief remained in his custody and would not be brought to the Manila City Jail.

The NBI earlier filed arbitrary detention and usurpation of authority charges against Jaylo in the Department of Justice.

The bureau also filed charges of qualified bribery and filegal possession of firearms against Jaylo's men who were arrested in entrapment operations conducted by agents of the NBI's Special Task Force and Intelligence Special Operations Division in October last

Agents of the NBI Special Action Unit raided the PAIRTP's Manila office in November and arrested more "illegal" operatives.

RP's First Cholce

Manila pays tribute to Sto. Niño

IN PREPARATION FOR THE STO, NINO Fi- explained. esta celebration in Tondo and Pandacan today, Manila Mayor Lito Atlenza has mobilized barangay officials and watchmen to help members of the Manila Police District maintain peace and order in these areas. Attenza also advised motorists to avoid

roads and streets affected by the Lakbayaw Festival and Pluvial Parade in Tondo and the Buling-Buling celebration in Pandacan.

"These celebrations are two of the most colorful events in the city in honor of the Sto. Nino," Arienza said in a statement.

The Lakbayaw Festival in Tondo will start at 7 a.m. with Atlenza leading the parade and participants from school, community and religious organizations.

Ati-atihan groups will compete for the best dance presentation award, the mayor

cursed a Metro Manua Development Authority

(MMDA) aids who had warned him of a traffic

violation. Not content with shouting invectives,

Carlos Spriano also allegedly hit MMDA officer

Jhon Murao's left cheek according to a com-

plaint filed by the alleged victim in the Quezon

City prosecutor's office. Murao lodged stander

and oral defamation charges against Soriano

for "showing utter contampt for him not only

Bad hair day

The parade will start in Plaza Hernandez-Lakandula Street and end at Plaza Hernandez. A fluvial parade and procession will follow at 2 p.m. from the Tondo Church going to the Escolta Wharf.

From the wharf, a motorcade will pass through Quintin Paredes and return to the Tondo Church.

In Pandacan, the Buling-Buling Street Pestival will begin at 3 p.m. with residents singing and dancing to the accompaniment of string instruments while the Sto. Niño image is moved around the area.

Historian Ricardo Mendoza said the festival started in 1712 to honor the miraculous Sto. Nino whose image was found in the middle of a pandan plantation, now called Panda-Margaux C. Ortiz

once but thrice." It was later learned that Sortand was not able to produce a driver's licensaupon questioning.

A JEEPNEY driver who apparently needs anger management lessons is facing criminal charges in Quezon City after he allegedly **World Heritage lecture**

THE MUSEUM Foundation of the Philipp nes inc. ushers in the New Year with a talk on World Heritage Sites in the Philippines by Augusto Villaion at 10 a.m. tomorrow, at the Tambunting-Villongco Hab, Museum of the Filipino People, Valencia Circle, Manila. For details, call Eivie Magpayo or Dindin Areneta at 4042685 or e-mail info@museumfounda-

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The siblings Vicky and Tom Toh

Gentleman Mike Arroyo to whom I'm quite close, but I would be remiss in my duty as a journalist if I didn't write this.

As a friend, I've told Mr. Arroyo about the activities of Vicky Toh and her brother, Tom Toh, at the Bureau of Customs. But he kept saying the reports about the Toha were fab-

ON TARGET

My sources at the customs bureau told me the Tohs were protecting a smuggler, a guy named ! Sammy Lee. No customs official dares to touch Lee because he's alleged. Ramon Tulfo wings of the Tohs.

Even former Commissioner Bert Lina, known for being a straight, no-nonsense guy, couldn't touch Lee. Whenever Lee's cargo would be up for inspection, Vicky and Tom would reportedly call Lina and intercede for Lee. Every week, 300 container vans are taken out of Lee's bonded warehouses without inspection. The vans contain taxable or banned items like resin, tiles, furniture and ukay-ukay (used clothing). How much does Lee pay the customs bureau for each container van he takes out of the customs? An import processing fee of P2401 My sources said Lee should be paying

P120,000 in taxes and duties for a 20-foot container van, and P240,000 for a 40 footer.

In short, Lee defrauds the government of P36 million weekly. The amount is conservative. The computation is based on the number of container vans, or 300, multiplied by P120,000 representing taxes and duties for each 20-foot container van. Customs insiders said the warehouses of Lee

I WILL SURELY INCUR THE IRE OF FIRST and the Tohs are the few remaining still operating. The rest have shut down because of the high cost of taxes and duties on imported goods.

As a friend, I urge Mike Arroyo to tell Vicky

and Tom Toh to stop their smuggling activities.

IF JUSTICE Secretary Raul Gonzalez had his way, he would have the four US Marines accused of raping a Pilipino woman held in custody.

> "But, Mon, we can't do that without violating a provision in the Visiting Forces Agree-ment, Gonzalez told

me. He cited Article 5, Section 6 of the VPA that provides that the US government will have custody of American servicemen charged with a crime for the duration of the trial. Don't blame Gonzalez for being legalistic. After all, he's the government's chief lawyer.

Let's protect the integrity of the republic, but we should also respect the VFA, which is a treaty we signed with the US.

THE ILOCOS Sur National High School Class of 1956 will celebrate its 50th anniversary in Vigan, Ilocos Sur, on Jan. 20 and 21. One of the members of that class is Tomas del Castillo, in-Quinza's legal counsel. For details, call Marletta Peralta Librea at 9116435.

CONGRATULATIONS to Lucio Alejo, Royce Reyes, Abraham Chavez and Marielle Macapawa who were recently promoted to 5th Dan in the Japanese martial art of alkido. They are the highest-ranking aikido practitioners in the country today.

HELLO! O, KITA TAYO MAMAYA!

NOON:

HELLOT O, KITA TAYO MAMAYA







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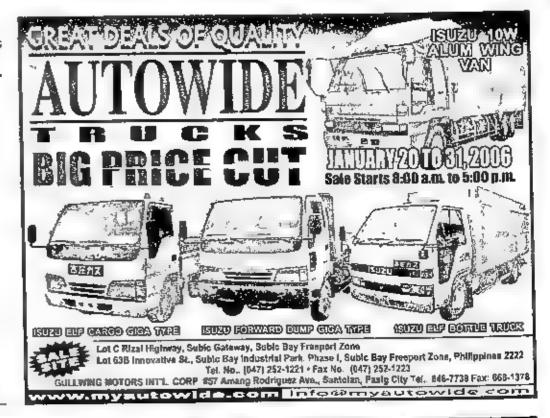
Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Air21 dethrones tired, tired SMB

By June Navarro

HAVING LOST TWO SUDDEN-DEATH GAMES in franchise history, the Air21 Express made sure a third one did not slip away.

De Villa hangs on to win RP Ladies





SAN MIGUEL Beer's Nic Belasco battles for the rebound off two Air21 players.

Renren Ritualo's four-point play in the closing munutes sparked Air21 to a 100-86 win over San Miguel Beer last night, paving the way for the Express to advance to the quarterfinals of the San Mig Coffee-PBA Fiesta Conference at the Araneta

Ritualo got a feed from Wynne Arboleda at the top of the arc and sent home a triple that finally loosened up a tight contest and snuffed the life

The Air21 sniper completed a four-point swing after getting a foul from Dondon Hontiveres, giving the Express an 88-80 balloon on the way to their first quarterfinal stint since the wild card phase was introduced in 2003.

The Express, who had already lost a couple of do-or-die wild card matches since joining the reague in 2002, begin their best-of-five series with the well rested Talk 'N Text Phone Pals today.

"There was a point in the game when I almost gave up," said Air21 coach Bo Perasol. "But my wife told me that the team gets its strength from me and that motivated me to give it a fight."

In contrast, the Beermen lost their first suddendeath game - after hurdling the last two- in just a matter of six days. The defending champion Beermen wound up eighth in the conference. Redeeming himself from an atrocous free-

throw shooting in Game 2, Shawn Daniels had 16 points in the first haif, but San Miguel shot pretty well from the field to overcome Daniels' hot start. Danny Seigle typified the Beermen's tornd

outside shooting, making 15 points just before the interrussion, including a pair of floaters in the lane that gave San Miguel a 53-47 halftime lead. Free-throw woes again hounded the Express

in the first half, muffing seven of 14 attempts, which the Beermen expioited by turning the game around with an 11-2 run from 37-all.

Seigle sparked that assault with a three-point play, while Danny Ildefonso and Kwan Johnson combined for eight points in the next possessions to help the Beermen build a 48-39 spread.

Back-to-back three-pointers by Niño Canaleta and Wynne Arboleda's lay-up brought the Express back to the driver's seat, 59-58, an advantage Air21 sustained at the close of the third.

The scores: AIR 21 100-Daniels 24, Arboleda 16, Canaleta 15, Fâtualo 13, David 12, Y. De Ocampo 9, Gonzales 3, R. De Ocampo 2, Tubid 2 Dacia 1, Femiols 1, Se 0, Fran 0.

SAN MIGUEL 86-Johnson 24, Seigle 17, Calaguio 14, 8defonso 14, Belasco 9, Pena 6, Horitivaros 2, Lopez 0, Racela 8, Quarters: 27-29, 47-53, 67-64, 100-86

PSA honors top athletes tonight

FILIPINO ATHLETES WHO MADE 2005 truly memorable for the country will be feted by the Philippine Sportswriters Association tonight in gala ceremonies at the grand ballroom of the Manda PavilThey saw the Philippines win first on Globe 3G

While the world was watching Team Philippines sweep the 23rd South East Asian Games on TV, media writers and sports

reporters saw it on Globe 3G, the third generation of mobile services.

In a showcase of their leadership in innovation, Globe displayed their 3G mobile voice and data services during the games. Demonstrations to the media ranged from audio and video streaming to video telephony, including video call interviews with members of Team Philippines,

From the time they were awarded a trial license to operate 3G trial services last year, Globe had been actively demonstrating the capabilities of this next generation rechnology in mobile services.



The first live public presentation was during the 2nd CEO Golf Classic Tournament at Sta. Hena Golf and Country Club.

Over 100 CEOs and executives tried their hand at connecting to the tournament website at DSL speeds and viewing full-length videos of the golf games on 3G-

capable phones. Then at the 19th Ad Congress in Cebs, Ayah Corp. President and CEO, Jaime Augusto Zobel de Ayah made a video call to the chairman of the congress and also received a live video call from Manila.

just in time for Christmas, Della Bautista, an OFW working in Singapore, was reunited with the family she has not seen in 6 years. In a video call during the 3G Express Exhibit at Glorietta, she was able to talk to



and see not just her sixer, Lourdes, and brother, Danny, but also her 4-year old niece Dalsy for the first time.



Globe has always been committed to enriching lives, moreso now with the power of 3G and the whole range of mobile services

that come with it video calls that allow people to see and hear each other; video sharing in which two subscribers can view the same video in real time; fost browsing and even faster downloads for internet surfing and downloading at OSL speeds; and video streaming to catch the latest news or TV shows live.

That same commitment applies in the way they innovate. During the same 23rd SEA Games that saw members of the media experience 3G, Globe also demonstrated

first-hand High Speed Downlink Packet Access (HSDPA), the upcoming technology being developed with even faster download speeds.



Photograph by Rody De Castro

From being first in the country to introduce GSM (2G), Globe continued to ploneer with its successive introductions of GPRS (2.5G) and EDGE (2.75G) soon after, Now, Globe leads again with 3G and continues in its vision of making great drings possible.

See 3G in action every weekend of January at the Ground floor of Glorietta 3, Ayala Center Makati.



SPORTS

Pacquiao impresses LA boxing scribes

FILIPINO BOXING HERO MANNY PACQUIAO has finally made public what he says is the terrible punishment that awaits his Mexican nemesis Erik Morales on Jan. 22, when they cross paths once again at the Thomas and Mack Center in Las Vegas, Nevada.

The fast and futious lefty from Gen. Santos "City yesterday allowed reporters to see how he trains at the Wild Card Gym of Freddie Roach in Los Angeles.

Pacquiao did what was described in the boxing website 15rounds.com as an electrifying 70minute media workout that had fellow fighters and media watching in awe.

"He didn't see the best of me last time, but rest assured he'll see the best of me this time," the website quoted Pacman as telling sportswriters.

"I don't know how I'm going to bear him, but I

Test project "Para Sa Yo ang Labang Ito" blared in

the background.

Trainer Roach revealed that he wants Pacquiao to be not so "left-hand happy," a tactical pitfall that also marked the Filipmo's first fight with Morales.

"We've got a lot of different weapons he is prepared to use," Roach told 15rounds.com. Asked about his prediction, Roach said, 7

wouldn't be surprised if Manny knocked him cut. I'm not predicting it, but I wouldn't be sur-

"I want Manny to do a better job staying off the ropes," Roach added. "It's something we've been working on. You will see a much better fight this time around."

Observers who in the past were dazzled by Pacquiao's hand speed and power were given another treat this time, one prepared only for Morales: a highly-improved footwork aimed at confusing the Mexican star. Salven L. Lagum-



WHILE members of the foreign media watch, Manny Pacquiao (right)

works out with trainer Freddie Roach Thursday in Los Angeles.

Little Debbie hangs on for 1-shot victory

By Musong R. Castillo

PLAYING WITH THE HEART OF A VETERAN and brandishing the game of a champion, little Debbie De Villa fended off all pursuers with a brilliant 2-under-per 69 yesterday to win the 44th Philippine Ladies Amateur by one shot over Korean Lee Seo-jae.

Starting the final round just one ahead, the 5-foot, 95-lb De Villa built a four-stroke lead after five holes and showed poise well beyond her years when the chasers gamed to hold on to the biggest win of her young career

"It's a dream come true," said the 15year-old, who had the lunury of closing out with a bogey for a 54-hole, even-par 213 total. "I came anto this tournament hoping for nothing but a top 10 finish. I guess everything fell in place. I'm blessed."

Debbie goes down in history as one of the youngest ever to win this event, which drew 86 entries, including 33

> LPGA star Jenuafer Rosales, according to the organizing Women's Golf Association of the Philippines, was also around that same age when she won the first of her five Opens in the mid-1990s.

Carmelette who fired a 78 to finish 15th at 232, was also within the age range when she won in 1993.

Lee actually matched De Villa's 69, but she mussed a potential playoff-forging 20-foor birdie purt on the

18th. That sparked a wild celebration in the gallery that braved the heat and the strong mid-afternoon downpour at the exclusive Marrila Golf Club.

Hong Kong's Dems Mak struggled to a 73 and setded for third with 219, while Frances Bondad limped home with a 74 to be at 220, seven shots off De Villa and one rung lower than her finish last year. Fil-Am Cristina Corpus submitted a 72 and wound

up lifth at 221, three in front of Lora Roberto. Woo Young-kyung, runner-up to Jayvie Agojo last year, matched per 71 to claim a tie for seventh spot at 226 with Reb Sotelo-Bareng (76) and 2000 winner Thuhashina Selvaratnam of Sn Lanka (78)

Jungolfer Dottie Ardina signed for a 75 for 227, with chubby Mia Piccio checking in next at 228 after n 74. Crystal Reith Superal assembled a 76 for 230 and solo 12th place.

Christabel Goh of Singapore shot a 78 earlier to win the Class A plum over Valley's Bambee dela Paz. (79) by two shots with a 242 total. Eva Miñoza, sister of the revered Frankie, had an 81 (245) for third.

Angela De Villa, younger sister of Debbie, assembled an 85 for 256 and a one-shot victory over Sunshine Baraquiel (88) in Class B. Claudine Garcia (90) finished third at 268.

De Villa strong up three birdies from No. 2 and went 4-up on the Korean when Lee massed the green on the par-4 fifth.

The young Fäipina made the turn at 33 and was still 3-up with nine holes to play when Lee assembled a three-birdie string of her own from the 10th.

De Villa made a church 12-footer for birdie on the 12th to stay affoat before guitning down another butt. on the par-3 14th. Both players bogeyed the difficult 16th, and after bogeys on the 17th, Lee's only chance was to land her third shot near the 18th pin to force a playoff as De Villa had to play out of the trees after hooking her second shot.

BIG EFFORT: Amazing Debble De Villa lifts her trophy. Teethmasters take outside shot at outright PBL semifinal berth

AS TIGHT AS THE ROAD TO A PBL HEROES Cup outright semufinal slot may seem, Hapee-PCU coach Junel Baculi feels he has something good going in the trio of Gabby Espinas, Jason Castro and Robert Sanz.

White ...

The state of the s

15 ARS 1950 .

"Our PCU players, I know they want to prove something," said Baculi of his three NCAA standouts. "We just have to keep on working to have a chance [for] the second spot."

The third-running Teethmasters will my to boost their bid when they battle the Toyota Ocis Knights at 4 p.m. today at the San Andres Gym.

The Teethmasters must not only beat the Knights, they also need either Magnolia or Rain or Shine to lose their respective games tomorrow. Even then, Hapee-PCU still has to go through a knockout match against whichever team loses for

that early ticket to the semifinals. In contrast, Magnolia and Rain or Shane can

W TANKOTHO! Magnotia R. or Shine Hapee-PCU Harbour Montaña G Goose Far E. Ins. 3 Toyota Otis

> GAMES TODAY (San Andres Gym) 2 p.m.-Granny Goose vs Far Eastern INSURBILICE. 4 g.m.—Toyota Otis vs Hapee-PCU

claim the first two semifinal seats if Hapee-PCU loses or by hurdling their assignments comorrow.

The Granny Goose Tortillos, assured of a slot in the quarterfinals, are also in a must-win situation when they tacide the Par Eastern Insurers at 2 p.m.—but for different reasons.

Toring similar 5-5 cards, Granny Goose, Montaña and Harbour Centre remain in the hunt for the twice-to-beat incentive in the quarterfinals.

The third and fourth placers at the end of the elimination round, which wraps up tomorrow, would cinch the quarterfinal bonus, thus making a victory by the Thrtillos very crucial.

Par Eastern Insurance and Toyota Otis bowed out of contention as early as last week.

The surging Teethmasters scared back-to-back upset wins over Magnolia, 81-70, and Montaña, 75-65, with Castro, Sanz and Espinas sizzling of-Jasamine W. Payo





TANPINCO

Cantada seeks rare 3rd win with Tanpinco

WITH HIS DOCTOR GIVING HIM THE GREEN light to play again, former world jurnor golf champion Gerard Cantada said yesterday he was ready to defend his crown in the Konica Minoha National Pro-Am at Riviera.

Cantada and his amateur partner JR Tanpinco scored a rare repeat victory last year in the fabled event backed up again this year by U-Bix Corp. top honcho Bert Bravo, the man behind the revival of the tournament in 2001.

"I'm excited," said Cantada. "My doctor (Jose Paolo Lorenzo) is himself now upbeat about my comeback and he's given me a clean bill of health to pursue the love of my life, which is golf."

Cantada had suffered from joint and muscle discomfort due to weight problems the last few months. But he is now "fit as a fiddle" to shoot, with Tanpinco, for a first-ever three successive victories in the event sponsored mainly by Grappa's, Pivo Praha and S-yard.

Bravo co-chairs the executive committee with Benny Gopez, president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines, with Riviera president Commodore Danny Pizarro (ret.) as chair of the organizing committee.

Our commitment has been always to sustain the Pro-Am as our humble contribution to encourage both our pros and amateurs to excel in their game," said Bravo.

This year's edition, set Feb. 7-11 at Riviera's Langer course, has a total pot of P1.7 million, P200,000 up on last year's total purse.

Please beat the buzzer and call Dennis

I WAS SURPRISED to receive a letter yesterday morning from INQUIRER Libre sports editor Dennis Eroa who recently had a close brush with death while motoring from Pasay to Olongapo. Dennis is appealing to Beth Celis readers for assis-



tance, not for himself but for one of the unfortunate victims of the horrifying incident, a mother of three who's still confined in hospital.

Hereunder is Dennis' letter

LESS than a month ago, I received the perfect gift. That was the gift of life.

But, I'm not going to dwell on the nightmarish bus ride I took from Pasay to Olongapo anymore. I've already recovered from . the shock of flirting with death after a group of gunmen turned the Victory bus into a battleground.

Knowing that your column is well-read, I decided to write you this letter.

I believe, after all, that goodness happens not only during the Christmas season.

This letter is about a victim, or shall I say victims, of the unfortunate incident and a call to the authorities and the Victory management to do their best to safeguard the welfare of the public.

I stared at death and watched my seatmate bleed due to gunshot wounds, but what really tugged at my heart was the horrible scene which unfolded infront of me.

A mother of three slumped into her seat after gerting hit. She fought for her life next to her three shocked daughters.

To make the story short, the wounded (I think there were six of them, including a Briton who lost a huge sum of money to a heartless, fellow passenger who disappeared while also being treated at the Gordon Memorial Hospital in Olongapo City) survived the incident, but it left permanent's scars on their psyche.

This is the reason why I decided to write you, fervently hoping that Good Samaritans will be able to help the mother and her

I learned from a nurse, who happens to be a neighbor of the victim, that the family is hard up. If I heard the nurse right, the woman is a widow and has difficulty make... ing both ends meet.

I am taking this step to try to respond to

To those, who want to beat the buzzer, I. can be reached at 0917-278-3829, or you may call (02) 897-88-08 local Inquires Libre (Sunday to Thursday) from 6 p.m. to 9

Keep in Haddie, LOUD!

While high-ranking officials from Shell and Welcoat continue to deny that there are ongoing negotiations for the purchase of the former's PRA franchise, PBL insiders seem to be privy to the continuing exchanges between the two par-

We are updated of these on a regular basis. I just can't be too sure how accu-

rate the reports are. During the holidays, for example, I was told that the two ballclubs were haggling on the franchise cost. Unfortunate-

ly, no figure could be quoted. And then just the other day, word was out that the pact had been sealed. The PBA commissioner's office, they said, has already issued the guidelines, as well as the terms and conditions for the entry

of the new ballclub. Our source couldn't tell exactly where Welcoat would get the bulk of its lineup, considering the fact that it will be allowed to elevate only two of its amateur players to the pro club. This is really strange because in the past, new ballclubs from the PBL and the MBA were allowed to bring in at least five of their players from their amateur lineup.

I suppose there will be an expansion draft, and the new team can always look forward to picking players from the rookie pool-assuming that it will make its entry after the 2005-2006 season.

But when, in heaven's name, do they intend to make an official announcement?

HOOPVINE: With Joey Lina's BAP and Moying Martelino's PBFI holding almost slmultaneous intercollegiate tournaments in the first quarter of this year, schools from all over the country will be torn between the two. Joey is confident, though, that the original participants will stay loyal to the BAP which has conducted this nationwide tournament—one of the oldest—for decades... Incidentally, the BAP plans to stage an Asean Invitationals where all the countries that were supposed to participate in the 23rd Southeast Asian Games would be invited... PBA fans are wondering if this married actress comes to watch the games to root for her old boyfriend who wears a red jersey. This cager is not to be mistaken for another ex-boyfriend who also wears a red jersey and is still single, just like the oth-

Badminton coach pins hopes on Babad brods

By Marc Anthony Reyes

BETTER TO LOSE WITH NEW faces than to constantly allow the oki hands get beaten up.

With that philosophy in mind, newly-appointed badminton head coach Errol Chan said yesterday he plans to draw the sport's roadmap laround five ldds-two of whom he hopes to send abroad for training.

Chan yesterday named brothers Joseph and Andre Babad as key prospects who he hopes to send to Indonesia, the sport's superpower, for intensive training.

Chan is also trying to convince the parents of three other young Davao City-based players---Katherine Kim P. Mayono, 13; Diosan A. Abangan, 17; and Jullie Pearl Gimena. 15-to allow the Palarong Pam-

bansa champions to join a stable he is putting up to train under worldclass shuttlers.

"It's better to see our young Filpino players [going] out there even if they lose, rather than seeing the same old faces getting beaten," said Chan, alluding to the national team which failed to come up with a single match win in the recent 23rd Southeast Asian Games.

A lot of hope is punned on the Babads. At the Rizal Memorial Badminton Hall, the training center for the country's national shuttlers, they are known as "court rats" who regularly play against national play-

"It's a big break for us," said 14year-old Babad. He and his 16-yearold brother were discovered in Bu-

ers and walk-in players all day long.

Ozamiz razes 18-pt deficit, pips Spring Oil

VALENCIA CITY—REIGNING NBC CHAMPION Ozamiz Cotta bucked a slow start to mip Spring Cooking Oil, 79-78, Thursday in the Mayor Santmy Co Invitational basketball tournament here.

Veteran Billy Bansil scored Ozamiz's last six points, including the game-winning free throws with two seconds left, as the Coua tied idle Tribu Sugbu for top spot in Bracket A at 1-0.

The Cooking Oil Masters of NBC president Nathaniel "Tac" Padilla led by 18 points in the third quarter, but they wilted under pressure and allowed Mayor Reynaldo Parojinog's Ozamiz cagers to escape with the win.

Playmaker Bob Cozy flanga knocked in 10 of his 11 points during Ozamiz's raily which enabled it to grab the lead for the first tisne at 58-57.

Ex-pro Bong Marata and Ping Daja shone to lead expansion team Pagadian past the Valencia

Golden Harvest, 75-74, in the other game,

Tour qualifier starts Feb. 12

THE CHASE FOR SLOTS TO the 2006 Tour rolls off Feb. 12 when the Philippine National Cycling Association (PNCA) holds its qualifying races in Tagaytay City.

PNCA president Paquito Rivas has forged an agreement with Tagaytay City Mayor Abraham "Bambol" 1blentino to make the city's annual Pista ng Pag-ibig cycling festivai a two-in-one event.

The qualifiers will, have a massed start race—the Pista ng Pag-ibig proper-on Feb. 12 and the individual time trial on Feb. 13.

The Pista ng Pag-ibig, meanwhile, has expanded to other cycling disciplines and will hold competitions in mountain bike and BMX.

Tagaytay has become the country's cycling capital after hosting the road races of the 23rd Southeast Asian Games as well as the demonstration discipance of BMX, an official event in the 2008 Beijing Olympics. The city boasts Southeast Asia's only BMX course that conforms to UCI

Registration for the Tour qualifiers and the racing festival is at the PNCA offices at the Amoranto Sports Complex in Quezon City or through 0916-2601992.

The 2006 Tour is set April 20 to 30 and will be a 10-stage race over Luzon. The PNCA has also sought the sanction of the national federation for the sport-PhilCycling-for the 2006 Tour.

PUP begins defense of basketball crown

POLYTECHNIC UNIVERSITY OF the Philippines opens its title-retention campaign today as the 18th State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association-National Capital Region (Schaa-NCR) Season men's basketball tournament kicks off at the PUP Gym in Sta-Mesa, Manila.

The Marooners faces the Philippine State College of Aeronautics in the 2 p.m. opener, to be followed by the Rizal Technological University-Philippine Normal University tussle at 3:30 p.m.

Season host Technological University of the Philippines battles Eu-

logio Amang Rodriguez Institute of Science and Technology at 5 p.m.

The league held its opening ceremorues yesterday at the Rizal Memorial Stadium. Other events calendared are athletics, badminton, basebati, billiards, chess, futsal, football, handball, lawn tennis, sepak takraw, softball, swimming, table tennis and volleyball.

Present during the rites, which drew around 25,000 students and athletes, were guest speaker Rep. Bienvenido Abante of Manila's sixth district and Scuaa-NCR chair and TUP president Dr. Godofredo Gallega



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Government Warning: Cigarette smoking is dangerous to your health. **SPORTS**

Kobe's jumper rescues Lakers KOBE Bryant puts the LA Lakers on his shoulders and soars past the Cleveland

LOS ANGELES—KOBE BRYANT HIT A JUMP SHOT in the dving seconds to give the Los Angeles Lakers a 99-98 victory over the Cleveland Cavaliers on Thursday.

Bryant, who sat out part of the games. game after injuring his wrist, came off the bench in the final quarter to score the winning points with nine seconds remaining.

Lebron James had a chance to steal victory for the Cavaliers but his jump shot rebounded off the rim at the buzzer.

After averaging more than 40 points in his last five contests, Bryant was held to just 27 but he was well backed up by Lamar Odom, who gathered 20 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists.

"There's been a lot of talk of me being a one-man show but that's simply not the case," Bryant told reporters. "We win games when I score 40 points and we've won when I score 10."

Zydrunas ligauskas had a gamehigh 29 points for the Cavaliers while James finished with 28 and Drew Gooden 15 as the Cleveland lost for the third time in four

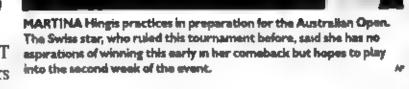
"It was awesome," said James In San Antonio, Rasheed Wallace scored 27 points and Richard Hamilton got 22 as the Detroit Pistons eased past the Spurs, 83-68 in a rematch between last year's title

It was Detroit's first visit to San Antonio since losing to the NBA champions last June and the Pistons followed up their Christmas Day victory over the Spurs with another dominating performance

In Phoenix, the Suns had six players in double figures led by a 21 point effort from Shawn Marion as they recorded a comfortable 112-99 win over the Golden State

Steve Nash contributed 20 points, 16 assests and seven rebounds in the win while Boris Diaw also scored 20 points. Reuters

NBA on Solar Bla.m.—Withhirdton vs.



Federer's first foe: Unknown Uzbek

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA-FOR the record, Roger, Derus Istomin is right-handed.

Top-ranked Roger Federer was more curious about his firstround rival from Uzbekistan than anything eise ahead of next week's Australian Open.

The prospect of a semifinal against third-seeded Lleyton Hewitt could wait, "because that's so far away in the draw (It) doesn't matter."

Federer had never heard of Istomin before Friday's draw for the season's first major and had some investigating to do

"I cannot tell you one thing about him," said Federer, admitting he'd tried to do some scout-

ing around the locker room and "nobody knew him either."

The International Tennis Federation and the ATP had hmited details on the 19-year-old Istomin, who is entering a Grand Sam tournament for the first time on a special wild card entry granted by Australian Open organizers to the winner of the 2005 Asian Championships.

Federer acknowledges he's sughtly wary of the unknown

"It's going to be hard. I have no clue how old he is, how he looks, if he is left or right-handed," said Federer, "I better find out because I don't want to be facing something very unknown. It's definitely sort of incky."

Big Spender 1
Race 8—(Ort/M)—Flying Princess 3
Speed Majesty 7 San Diego Force 1
Wear The Fox Hat 2

Race 9 Penta/Trij Carkto's way 4 hoy Sobra Na 5 Detective Duryll 6 Hinety Nine Cents 8 Yo Tero 7 Race 10-(Ort/Trl)---Tini Bambini 6, Dav datera 2. Hezagone Babes 1. Aya's Star 4. Race 11—(Kalashnikov 3. Playing Cool 7. Race 12—(Drt/Tri)—Slingray 6. Truly impressive 8. Open

Sky 5, King Yoji 7
Raca 13—(Super S(x/Ont/TN): Starlet 13. Maximits 8.
Gamby's Attack 3. Shy Girl 10. Samahan 6. Sir

Wie struggles in Sony Open

HONOLULU-M CHELLE WIE S'GNED FOR HER highest score on the PGA Tour, one that sent her to the bottom of the leaderboard Thursday at the Sorry Open, and struggled to keep her voice steady while explaining what went wrong. Unable to stop the slide in gusts up to 55 kph (35 mph) Wie stumbled to a 9-over 79 that left her with virtually no hope of becoming the first woman in 51 years to make the cut on the PGA Tour

Race 1—(Ort/Tri)—Dancing Spree 1 Epic Energy 4 Last Dance 2 Princess stidy 1
Race 2—(Dri/Tr)—Screaming Eagle 6. El
Cid 2 Magiller 7. Sir Olizon 3
Race 3—(Ort. "ri)—Bundok Peminsula 2
Candu 6. Erica's Talent 4. Muttara 3.

Race 4—(Penta/Tr j—Batiet Danseusa/ Wild Orched 3, Master King 4, Bellin Bellin 6, Michae Da Bragon 10 La Tienne 2 Race 5—(Ort/Trl)—Hipalgo 7 Summer Rain 2 Queen 6. Siew Dancer 3

Race 6—(Penia/Tri)—King's Dominion 4. Kai Matri 7 Sharapova 6 Majostic Queen 9 Race 7 - (Ort/Tri)—Honour N Fame 3. Red Hot Martini 4

PSA honors.

ion starting at 7 o'clock

President Macapagal-Arroyo will be on hand to pay tribute to all personauties and entities that contributed to another banner year for

The Chief Executive, along with guest of honor Phiappine Olympic Committee president Jose Cojuangco Jr. and Philippine Sports Commission chair William Ramirez, will award the PSA Athlete of the Year trophy to Team Philippines which reigned supreme in the 23rd Sc east Asian Games last month.

SEAG triple-gold medalist Sheila Mae Perez heads 22 others who will receive major awards from the country's oldest media group.

All gold medai winners in the SEA Games will receive special citations during the two-hour rites to be relecast on a slightly delayed basis by NBN-4, with Red Bull as sponsor and San Migue, Corp., the PSC, Manua Mayor Lito Atienza, the PBA and PBL as supporters.

PSA president Jimmy Cantor of Malaya said all gold medalists are requested to come in their parade uniforms and bring their medals.

All awardees, sports officials and other guests are advised to come early since protocol will be observed once the program begins.

International Olympic Committee representative to the Philippines Frank Elizaide, San Miguei Corp chair Eduardo "Danding" Cojuangco and Bacoiod Rep. Monico Puentevelia are among the sportsmen expected to grace the affair

The complete list of awardees: ATHLETE OF THE YEAR-TOOM Philip

MAJOR AWARDEES

1 Alex Pagulayan (billiards); 2. Monny Pittquiao (pro bosông): 3. Arwind Santos (amateur basiceballs, 4. Eric Munk (pro besishball); 5. Jeoniler Rosales (women's golf), 6. Juvic Pagunsan (men's amateur golf), 7 Herry Tenemor (amateur boxing), 8. Warran Devekliis (pro cycling); 9. Maneleta Torres (athletics); 10. Amaya Paz (archery), 11 Migual Molim (swimming); 12. Shelle Mae Peruz (diving); 13. Gudo); 15. Cacl. Marrill (tennis); 18. Suhod Haldm, drummer traditional book racing: 17 Ruperio Sebljon, steersmen, baditional book racing, 18, Manuel Maya, rower, tracitional boat racing; 19. Junray Dayumad, rower, traditional beat racing; 20, Ricky Sardana, rowar, traditional boat racing, 21 Pane Catalan. wushu; 22 Sander Severino (paralympics); 23. Josephan Hernandez (horseradinti)

CITATIONS

1 San Miguel Corp., 2 Asian Formula 3; 3. Frâns Pacantir: 4. Marille Sports Council; 5. JMC, 6. First Gentlemen Foundation; 7 V-Lasgue, S. Cito Dayrit, S. William Butch' Raminer: 10. Mark Parague; 11. Jayre Agojo; 12 Brian Villoria 13, Boom Boom Bautista; 14. Justro Sing Lejano; 15. Eddie Torret; 16. Philippine Practical Shooting learn; 17 Tons

SPECIAL CITATIONS

All gold medal winners in the 23rd SEA

TOMY SIDDAYAO AWARIDS

1 Wolen Superal; 2. Miguel Tabuere MOST OUTSTANDING NSA: Philippine Dragon Boat Federation

SPECIAL AWARD: Philippine Parelympics teem, Joseph Dümsk

SPORTSWATCH

Criterium race set tomorrow

THE CYCLING SEARCH INVITATIONAL (CSI) CRITERIUM PACE UNVEILS its idexoff leg tomorrow in Tarlac with the aim of discovering fresh faces for the sport. The race, which will also feature some of the country's top riders, will flag off at 8 a.m. Tariac City Mayor Genaro Mendoza, Vice Mayor Tess Cabal and City Sports development officer Arnold Rodriguez will be present at the start of the race. The event, presented by Philipost, features four divisions—youth, executive, masters and men's alite and under-23—with 12 teams entered in each category. Manicins and The Fort in Taguig City will host the next two legs of the event also backed by Pagcor. PCSO, Aktivade Thirst Quencher Monterey, PhilCycling and the Phillippine Sports Commission and madia partners NL 107, Yas PM and the Philippine Daily Inquirer.

80 fights at Rollgon today

DERBY CHAMPIONS FROM DIFFERENT PROVINCES COMPETE TODAY In the "Kayang-Kaya 4-cock Derby" at the Rollgon Mega Cockplt, 80 fights are scheduled in the event that kicks off at 5 p.m. Hosted by Mega Promotions, the derby stakes a guaranteed prize of P400,000, with an entry fee of P6,600. Meanwhile, the number of entries is swelling for Rollgon's "15th Anniversary 6-cock derby" on Jan. 31. Feb. 2, 4. 7 and An eye-popping prize of P4 million is at stake. Entry fee is P11,000. A brand new Yoyota innova will be given to the fastest win champion.

Derby stakes P3M, two cars

A COOL P3 MILLION PLUS TWO BRAND NEW TOYOTA CARS ARE AT stake in the Makati Conseum's "Summer Salpukan 6-cock derby" on Apr. 27, 29, May 2, 4, 6, 11 and 13. The WTJ Sports and Amusement Corp. headed by promoters Lito Ornieza, Rudy Salud and William Co. will host the super cocklest. Orillaza said as per WTJ policy, all prizes will be given to the winners right after the derby. For more inquiries, please contact 896-3545 and 895-6475

INVITATIONAL 8-COCK DERBY JANUARY 17, 19 & 21 ARANETA COLISEUM R.P. ENTRIES U.S. / FOREIGN ENTRIES Roger Roberts, GEORGIA * Ray Alexander, ALABAMA Boy Marzo * Nene Abello * Patrick Antonio Bobby Fairchild, OKLAHOMA . Jerry Ellard, ALABAMA Dending Cojumgeo = Richard Bates = Ito Ynares Karl & Bobby Casco, HAWAII . Bruce Barnette, CALIFORNIA Nene Aranata . Rudy Salud . Rudy Albano Jos Sanford, CALIFORNIA . Jos Stanfield, CALIFORNIA Peping Cojuangco * Esting Teopaco * Biboy Enriquez Johnny Moore TENNESSEE . Jesse Smith, OKLAHOMA Joel & Jet Fernando • Raymond Velayo Cris Nesmith ALABAMA + Jason Campbell ALABAMA Butch & Jake Macasael . Gerry Boy Espina . Frank Berin Norman Blount, ALABAMA + Thomas Green, ALABAMA Claude Bautista - Tony Tan - Peping Ricalori Richard Kelly, ALASAMA . Peter Uran, AUSTRALIA Eddle Araneta . Boy de Roca . Ronnie Puno Joey Melendres, AUSTRALIA . Sedfrey Linsangen, GUAM Jesry & Ricoy Paimares • Madlembayan Brothers Cesar Tan . Ompong Plaza . Eric de la Rosa Morinobu Taniquchi, JAPAN . Lloyd Bernardo, HAWAI Brad Padgette OREGON . Emitte San Juan, CALIFORNIA JV Magsaysay + John Capinpin + Willy Villarica Baby Evangelista, CALIFORNIA . Edwin Tagle, CALIFORNIA Obel Son . Poi Estrellado . Rio de Guzman Domy Fernandez, CALIFORNIA . Henry Fajardo, CALIFORN A Rane Medina + William Go + Gerry Escalona Henry Navarro, CALIFORNIA . Speedy Gonzales. CAL FORNIA Aleix Escalona = Patrick Puno • Philip Chiongbian Jorge Golse, CALIFORNIA . Teodor Coller CAL FORNIA Jingco Bros. • Tony Trebol • Felix Trebol • Bebot Roxes Ferdia Patern, CALIFORNIA . Tota Morales, CALIFORNIA Max Roxes • Lito Orilleza • Jun Maresigan • Boyet Joson Elmo Gayoso, TENNESSEE . Ron Ron Huele, CAL FORNIA Chito Tinsay . Boy Royo . Blandy Tolertino Ronilo Siazon, CAL FORNIA . William Corken ALABAMA Manolo Lopez * Danny Ty « Reggie Pena * Manuel Julao Christy Borovieri, ALABAMA . Johnny Gonzalez, CALIFORNIA Marcel uulmo + Jun Juleo + Dicky Lim + Frankie Jy Val Gonzalez, CAL.FORN.A . Coco Gonzalez, CALIFORNIA Roger Buenation » Efren Canlas » Boy Diaz » Cito Alberto Mario Gonzalez, CALIFORNIA * Pol Ronnasek, AR.ZONA awrence Wechang . Victor Sierre . Mike Romulo Dave Ward ARIZONA . Joe Brown, TENNESSEE Jame Uy * Anthony Lim * Boboy de los Sanlos Johnny Phillips, GEORGIA . William Leblanc, LOUISIANA Joey de los Santos » Noney Gonzales « Joes Panede Richard Harris, LOUISIANA + Mario Ceniza, ARIZONA Bobby Doromal * Serge Jimenez * Sonny Lagon Jorge Torres, CALIFORNIA . Ed Alpaparo, CALIFORNIA Mauro Prieto • Raffy Prieto • Alex Tang • Jun Savilla Regie Berawiden HAWAn . and others Edwin Bacud • Ampil P ... • Juancho Aquirre Edwin Remos * Raul Ebec * Dong Ledesme Elan Nagario • Paolo Malvar • and others Champion's Grand Prize includes: Host: A BRAND NEW 2006 4x2 PICK-UP Pintakasi of Champions SPONSORS

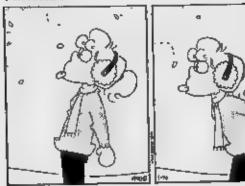
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BY JESS ABRERA

■ PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER= Comic*Relie*

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BY BILL AMEND A. LIPIN



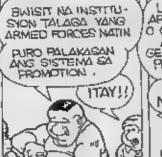
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BY TOM ARMSTRONG **PUGAD BABOY**





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ATOMO AND WEBOY









BY LYRA GARCELLANO

DIVINE COMEDY

MIKROKOSMOS

BY STEVEN PABALINAS



Horoscope

BY FRANCIS DRAKE

YOU BORN TODAY: You're very courageous. You have high ideals for yourself and others. You are not daunted by danger. Once you make your mind up, it's done. Your dogged persistence allows you to overcome all obstacles. You're concerned with social issues. In the year ahead, you have an important choice to make. Choose wisely. Birthdate of Emily Watson, actress, Faye Dunaway, actress, Albert Schweitzer, Nobel Peace Prize-winning physi-



ARIES (March 21 to April 19): Today's Full Moon makes it hard to please both home and femily, and your job and career. You're going to have to make



GEMINI (May 21 to June 20) If you can't agree with what others want to do about shared property, do nothing. After this Pull Moon, your chaices will be more apparent and obvious to



LEO (July 23 to Aug. 22): Your bright ideas about how to improve your job and the way you do it are good Trust

day might not be the day to talk about it. Just wait



VIRGO (Aug. 23 to Sept. 22). Parents must be patient with children today. They feel the Full

their excitable nature. Expect ten-

Part Of colored Paper Common

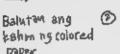
Mag Recycle Tayo

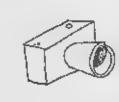
Mga Kailangan

Tuwing Sabado!



paper





1 Taikit ang plastic 1 lagyan ng detalyong cup sa harse gamit ng tape.



m42 BUTTONS at PNS2] ..!HAG-AT Laruang CAMERA!

a choice

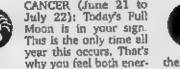
TAURUS (April 20 to May 20): You're not sure whether to go forward with career plans or not Quite possibly, this decision relates to

publishing and education. In a few days, you'l know.



DAILY CROSSWORD

CANCER (June 21 to July 22): Today's Pull



getic and lost Relax. Don't push the



Moon tool Just accept

sion with romantic gaisons.







BY MANIX ABRERA

ACROSS

- 1 Test papers Goblets 15 Lug laboriously
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- body of water 19 Diligent Insect 20 Small valleys 22 Divested
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- 1714/08 By Tom Pruce Chicago, IL Friday's Puzzle Solved 6 Risked a ticket R A B D 7 One of two on the phone 8 Racetrack near Miami § Large, roomy NSYN OFFENT TIT DAKS GEER boats 10 Director Ang 11 Director Jupino 12 Donkey's enticement 13 "Seinfeld" character A W'ER LCASCUP 14 Not often 21 Subsides 24 Goes to
 - 43 Chimes in
- 38 Principal ore of
- 44 Commuter's computer 45 Come into prominence 48 Logarithms

Inventor

48 Casual

- 64 King's address 55 Japanese nce beverage 58 Lanei garland 59 Act the
- straggier 61 "Oed-pv8 __" 82 Tembetoria

LIBRA (Sept. 23 to Oct. 22): Even though your

job makes demands on your time, you have to focus on home and family today. But it's a tough choice because you can't be in two places at



Nov. 21): Don't try to persuade others to agree with your beliefs and ideas today. Today is a Pull Moon, and people are a bit on edge. Choose another time to state your case.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23 to



SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22 to Dec. 21): You might be concerned about financial matters or your own possessions today Don't make hasty decisions. Today's Full Moon could get things all out of proportion.



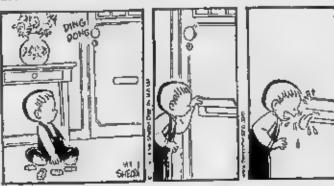
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22 to Jan. 19): Be extradiplometic and patient with loved ones and pareners today. You have no choice. This is the only time all year that the Full Moon opposes your sign.



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20 to Peb. 18): Be patient with co-workers, it's a Full Moon today, and ev-erybody is a bit off-base. People who work in emergency wards or for the police can attest to



PISCES (Feb. 19 to March 20): Don't try to won an argument with B friend today, it isn't worth it. Your friendship is more important than this temporary victory, isn't it?







KIKO MACHINE



tola, kung yung mga Bunitre sa tare yung Tratiloguan kiyo, darla yun MATURAL NA SA CAMPUS SAN. PRESHO NG PAGKAN

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TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING





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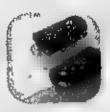
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Editor Nestor U. Torre Assistant Editor Rito P. Asilo

Marco Sison plays role of a lifetime

By Rito P. Asilo

IT'S BEEN 24 YEARS SINCE "MAKE Believe" struck gold and made Marco Sison a top recording star Bur, the dashing banadeer is not one to rest on his laureis. He continues to enthrall his followers with his passion for music, public service—and the theater!

After releasing his 17th and latest aibum, "Marco for All Seasons" (that comes with the appropriately titled VCD, "Videoke King"), Sison returns to the legitimate stage to play the role of a hietime-and sink his teeth into a subject that's close to his heart: Love for country.

Despotic

In Nestor U. Torre and Lourdes "Bing" Pimentel's "Pag-ibig sa Bayan," a musical based on Sen-Aquilino "Nene" Pimentel Jr.'s book about the despotic Martial Law regime, Marco plays the senator in a story that dramatizes the effects of Marnal Law on the lives of members of one family, the Pimenteis, and how

and integrity intact during one of the country's darkest periods.

Marco, himself a politician (he is currently a provincial board member in Laguna), shares that the musical has more to offer than mere entertainment. "Pagibig sa Bayan' is powerful. But, it isn't just about people empowerment or about one man's quincone quest for freedom.

More personal

"For me, it works on a more personal lever. It vivifies the Filipino's struggle to fight for freedom and democracy by zerong in on how an authoritarian rule impinges on the family.

Moreover, it reinforces my belief that a man who stands by his principles can make a difference. You don't have to be a trapo (traditional politician) to serve the public. Through four illegal arrests, this man fought to keep his family together, and rose to become one of the country's most influential political minds."

Make no mistake, though, the production is not just a theatrical lesson "Landas," "Si Aida, Si Loma o si Fe"

they struggled to keep their principles in history and politics. The personal stories depicted in Pag-ibig sa Bayan" are also told in soaring dramatic and musical highlights that showcase the compositions of Bing, who has previously composed songs for the popular religious musical revue, "Nasaan si Hesus?," and the musical arrangements of Jun Murillo.

For Marco, performing in the production is also an enriching albeit relevant trip down memory lane.

Not only is the musical mounted to observe the 20th year since the Edsa Revolution, it likewise allows the singer to look back at his successful previous forays in the field of musical theater. He has also tried the movies (Ishmael Bernal's "Menor de Edad" and Laurice Guillen's "Beautiful Guil"), but his fondest memories are of the

Hitmaker

In the '80s, the hitmaker—the velvery voice behind the classic OPM difties, "My Love Will See You Through,"

and "I'll Face Tomorrow-stretched his thespic wings and dabbled in stage work via the groundbreaking "Katy!"

He may not have appeared in a lot of stage productions since, but the expenence has immensely bolstered his confidence--he has even put up his own the ater group, Tabing (Tanghalang Biñan) in his hometown!

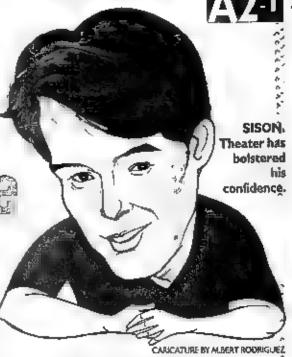
Frustration

He recalls, "When I did 'Katy!,' I remember crying my eyes out at nine in the morning out of frustration-because I couldn't find the sour of the character I was portraying (he played Katy dela Cruz' husband) But, my director was patient with me. The experience was very fulfilling, and it gave me an unusual burst of self-confidence!"

In "Pag-ibig sa Bayan," which will be performed on Jan. 21, 28 and Feb. 4 at 8 p.m. with a 3 p.m. matinee on Jan 28 at the Meralco Theater, Marco's confidence, maturity, and willingness to lose

Sharing the stage with Marco is gifted singer-actress Jane Diaz, who plays the senator's wife, Bing. Call Ruby at 851-3120 or Sara at 552-6733.

himself in his character will be on full



VCF celemates volunieen sm

By Mona Gonzalez

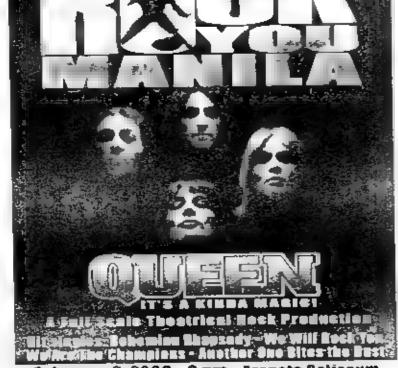
"WHETHER YOU HAVE A LOT OF MATERIAL things in life or not, you can still contribute great things to people," says Franco Laurel. After putting together the Victory Christian Fellowship's (VCF) music video, "Celebrate Life," the singer definitely speaks from experience.

"Celebrate Life" gathered celebraties (including director Sockie Fernandez) to work on the video.

Potential |

VCF Arabang's pastor, Artel Marquez, immediately saw the video's potential. "Media can influence different generations of peopie," he said. "This is a practical way to convey Christianity. It is a way of life."

The music video also coincides with VCF A.abang's seventh anniversary VCF originally started 21 years ago at the University Belt in Manila Through the years, it has expanded to 10 congregations in Metro Manua, 27 in the provinces, and several churches outside the



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JOIN DUSIT HOTEL NIKKO AS they journey anew to a year of greater promise as the hotel showcase Asian hospitality, at its finest this January.

From Jan. 29 to 31, The Café joins in celebrating the Chinese New Year and adds in its selection traditional Chinese menu special-

Well-loved Benkay Japanese Restaurant brings back this month of January the 'Nabe Kaiseki' (Japanese Hot Pot Pair)

Have a taste of authentic Vietnamese cuisine as Thiest Duong's chef Neuven gives diners a sample of his 'Executive Set Menu' creations made available for lunch and dinner

Tickle your palates this January at Benjarong Royal That restaurant with chef Tun's flavorful creations designed to give you a taste of Thailand's rich heritage. Offered from January 18 to 31, 2006

Calling all food lovers with big

appetite. Fiesta San Miguel treats diners to a whole new dimension in Filipino dining as it offer its newest hanch and dinner offeringthe Pinoy Big Bunch.' Take your pick from six (6) mouth-watering Tinoy Big Bunch' menus during lunchtime (11 30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.) for a complete meal for only P250 nett per person. All menus are inclusive of a refreshing round of ired tea or 'sago't gulaman' Satisfy your appetite with Pinoy Big Bunch' for a truly rewarding hinch meal this January and February 2006.

in celebration of the Filipino spirit. Fiesta San Miguel features delectable a la carte dishes in its 'Chef's Recommendations' to commemorate the "Ati-Atihan Fesrival" of Kalibo, Aklan and the "Sinulog Pestival" of Cebu. Offered for lunch and danner for the whole month of January 2006.

For inquiries, please call 867-3333. Advance dining reservation



January blast at City Garden Hotel

Hotel Makati is offering wonderful treats for everyone

After a month-long of festivities, a great way to spend a relaxing day or a long weekend with your loved ones is to stay at one of City Garden Hotel's tastefully elegant guest rooms. For as low as PI,450 per person on twin-sharing basis, it is inclusive of a choice of free sumptuous buffet breakfast for two or a Spa service at the hotel's Body & Pace by Mendez, free use of its open-air swimming pool at the Roofdeck and its fully equipped Gym at the Penthouse. Two (2) children below 12 years of age, stay for free

For those after-holiday get-togethers and reunions, its Party Packag names for as low as P24,750+ inclusive of buffet menu or barbecue grill and discounts on drinks. Its wedding and debut packages come for as low as P59,000+ inclusive of a buffet menu for 100 persons, a cake, souvenirs, floral arrange-

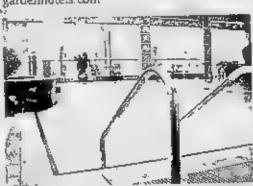
TO GREET THE NEW YEAR, CITY GARDEN ments, and other amenities. Thus, providing value for money and hassle-free arrangements. Reception venues may be beld at its cozy, fully equipped function rooms or at the al fresco Roofdeck, with a wonderful view of the metropolis.

For those one-on-one meetings, it has two dining experience, and its more-popular gardenhote.s.com Roofdeck Bar and Grill that gives you a cozy " dining experience with a great view of the Makati skyline

Those needing extra pampering after the holiday rush, the Body & Face by Mendez at the hotel's Upper Penthouse level have special packages for individuals, couples or group. Try their Revitalizing Glow Package which comes with a choice of Sait Body Glow or Body Gommage and a choice of Swedish or Shiatsu Massage or their Rejuvenating Escape that gives you a choice of Combination

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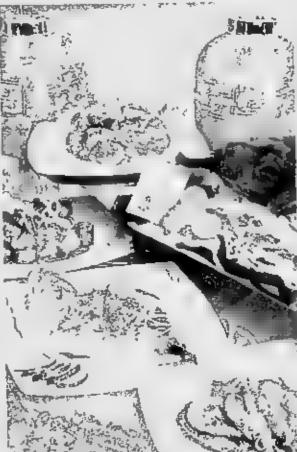


Waterfront hosts dinner for ATF

WATERFRONT HOTELS AND CASINOS, the largest Filipino-owned and managed hotel group in the Philippines, is scheduled to host an exciting evening of food, culture and camaraderie in a "Waterfrom Night" for the buyers, sellers and VIPs of the Asean Tourism Forum (ATF) on Jan. 18, 6 p.m., at the sprawling gardens of Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao. Guests of the Waterfront Night will be treated to a celebration of the Festivals of the Philippine Islands, featuring the best of the best of the three regions, Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao, highlighting the many beautiful facets that make up our country's heritage. The evening will also present a show of traditional songs and dances as well as all-embracing culinary theaters of regional delicacies. A fashion show featuring Luzon, Visayas and Mindanao's legacies as interpreted by one of the country's foremost fashion designers, Randy Oruz will also be one highlight of the evening. The show is professionally choreographed by premiere Philippine fashion director Jackie Aquino. The evening's concept also portrays Waterfront Hotels & Casinos' four Hotel properties strategically scattered across the regions - Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino and Waterfront Airport Hotel & Casino in the Visayas, the more recently acquired Manila Pavilion Hotel in Mindanao and the evening's venue, Waterfront Insular Hotel Davao in Luzon.

Waterfront Hotels & Casinos is proud to host one of the official dinner activities of the Asean Tourism Forum (ATF). The Hotel group leaves no stone unturned for this rare opportunity to forge relationships and build ties while making the ATF guests feel right

The Asean Tourism Forum is a cooperative regional effort to promote the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (Asean) region as one tourist destination. Each year, the hosting of the ATF is rotated among member countries. This year, Davao City, Philippines plays host to ATF 2006 themed "Celebrating The Many Faces Of Asean", as they mark the 25th anniversary of this event since its inauguration in Malaysia in 1981.



KUNG HEI FAT CHOY FROM THE BELLEVUE HOTEL

Usher in the Year of the Dog with a loud bang at southern Metro Manila's most happening hotspot, The Bellevua Hotel. From Jan. 27 to 29, enjoy a bountiful Chinese themed buffet especially prepared by guest chef fin Lal He from Guangzhou, China. Savor favorite Chinese dishes such as Roasted Peking Duck, Braised Abalone in Oyster Sauce, Steamed Lapu Lapu in Lotus Leaves, Steamed Crab and many more. Get 2006 forecasts from a guest astrologer or take home a special giveaway. Free for those taking the lunch and dinner buffets on Jan. 28 and 29. A Dragon Dance will drive away evil spirits and let the good fortune flow during lunch on Jan. 29. Kung Hei Fat Choy from the Bellevue! For Inquiries, Call 771-8181. The Sellevue Hotel's Cake of the Month this january is Symphony, a combination of creamy orange marzipan base and rich Williams chocolate cream pudding. Better yet, drop by The Bellevue's pastry corner and sample the best breads and sweets as lovingly made by the hotel's sweet-toothed pastry chefs. For inquiries, call 771-8181.

The Marco Polo Davao leads hotel chain in Asia

THE Marco Polo Hotels in Asia in the annual guest satisfaction survey conducted by the Marco Polo Hotel Group.

The feat capped all the achievements of The Marco Polo Davao in 2005 when this international luxury hotel and its various facilities received various prestigious awards.

These include the "Healthy Places Standard Awards" given by the Davao City Health Office last Dec. 15, 2005 at the NC-CC Mail Atrium. The hotel's food and beverage outlets stood out with its excellent ratings. The Lotus Court is the only restaurant in Davao recognized with an Excel-

THE MARCO POLO DAVAO TOPPED ALL lence Class A rating, followed by Cafe Marco with an Excellence Class B.

Similarly, the Fitness Center was awards ed by the Philippine Marketing Association as the Most Outstanding Fitness Center in Davao City during the Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards 2005.

The Marco Polo Davao also reaped the most number of medals and awards in the 5th Mindanao Culmary Pestival held at the NCCC Convention Center last Sept. 9 to

For this year, the hotel promises to continue this great tradition of excellence that The Marco Polo is known for.





Jan.

Chapter Parts and square

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Saturday Special

Children sing their hearts out Reflections on a wonderful life

By Sharon Wendy A. Robas

IT WAS A FITTING CONCERT TO start the New Year-and one whose proceeds benefited a lot of underprivdeged children.

The "Light A Million Mornings" concert, staged last week at the CCP Main Theater, featured the renowned Loboc Children's Choir and the Pundaguit Virtuosi.

The concert was for the benefit of Tuloy sa Don Bosco Streetchadren Village, which houses hundreds of street kids and heips them make a difference in their lives.

First time

It was the first time I heard and saw the Loboc choir perform. Although I knew how famous they have become-they won three Namcya championships and numerous accolades in international competitions—it was not until that night that I realized how much they deserved the raves they've been getting.

Listening to the group's superb blending of voices is like listening to cherubs singing to create music that truly touches the heart and soul.

The Pundaquit Virtuosi, headed by



CHOIR from Loboc is making a difference.

Coke Bolipata, also delivered an outstanding performance. The group's renditions of memorable classical pieces had the audience spellbound.

Even before the show started, some Pundaquit members gave samples of their adept violin-playing at the CCP lobby, to the delight of the

The show's guest performers were famous violinists Bolipata, Julian and Eliza Ournt and singer Cris Vilionco.

Exceptional

I marveled at the young singers and musicians' exceptional performance. But, then again, these children are not just talented-they're

It was also interesting to note the

two groups' "humble" beginnings: Loboc started as a school choit, while Pundaquit consisted of kids from Bolipata's hometown in Zambales. Seeing them share their musical gifts is an amazing achievement worthy of emulation.

Inspiring

The show culminated with the two groups performing the inspiring song, "Light of a Million Mornings," with Villonco—with the participation of the children of Tuloy. How truly touching!

It is said that kids have a way of making adults feel the inner joy and serenity that we lose while growing up. That night, those gifted kids did

By Vitt Romero

THE LIGHT FADES ON the last scene of Frank Capra's classic 1946 film "le's a Wonderful Life." I have seen this movie many times before, but it still evokes the same warm feelings of familial bonding.

Voyage

In the film, James Stewart who feels that his years have Jordan, Lennard and Paulo Gabriel. been for naught. He then goes through a dream-like voyage into a world without him in it.

In the end he realizes how much his goodness has done for others.

The movie is about a man who finds that a

As a filmmaker, I see how my role in media can impact on other people's everyday lives. So, I always strive to stretch my imagmation to remind them of the merits of maintaining happiness and romance in our contines.

Commitment

I extend the commitment to my nephews, because they are young filmmakers themselves.

"Tito Direk, there's something we want to show you!"

The eldest of my nephews had brought me a copy of their latest creative endeavor. With some of their distant cousins, the eldest of my mother Aurora Cruz-Romero's grandsons have edited and produced a short film they entitled "Lola's Wonderland

They wanted to show it at our family's New Year reunion, Vincent Dante, Jordan, and Virgil wanted to know if their work was up to par, so I popped the video into the player, excited to view the new masterpiece by my young Frank Capras. And I was blown away by their sweeping tale of love, family, travel and music in Mama's life over the past 10 years!

The children's dedication to the short film was extraordinary. Their skill for storyte.ling was impeccable, compiling years' worth of photographs, videos, testimonals, narratives and mementos.

Accessible

.... With so many technological advances now in the world of filmmaking, they have learned how to shoot, edit and compose with their video cameras, telephones, and computer editing software.

I recalled that scene in "It's a Wonderful Life," with George Bailey being overwheimed by the grand displays of compassion and esteem that his family and fellow townspeople showed him. And my heart suddenly left like bursting, as I imagined my mother's reaction to this most touching gesture by the grandchildren she cherishes most.

The "flashbacks" had taken me to many



plays George Baney, a man LOLA Aurora with granchlidren Virgil, Vincant Dante,

person's world, however small, affects him and is affected by him in ways that he can't imagine It is true to life:

instances in my mother's life that we all have shared. Many parts of the film are of the countless family reumons we had organized for her in the past decade

THE ROMERO matriarch with Pope

Fernandez and Martin Nievers.

And there are our musical artist friends whom they enjoy seeing most-Gary Valenciano, Martin Nievera, Janno Gibbs and Pops Fernandez are just some of the voices they've loved listening to in music videos and shows.

They've also seen how Mama's eyes light up as more great talents share their company with us: Celeste Legaspi, Mitch Vaides, Basil Valdez, Sylvia La Torre, Kun Ledesma, Willie Nep, Duice, Rico J, Puno, Freddie Aguilar, Pilita Corrales and The Company have been among the wonderful guests at some of our festivities to render Mama's favorite songs

The children's short film includes a senes of testimonials and narratives of their Lola as she recounts anecdotes about her touching love story with their late grandfather, Dante Sr., with special mention of his romantic love letters and professions of andying love.

They refer to stones told to them by their parents of the many journeys Lola made across the giobe. They love that she chatted with Tom Hanks over breakfast in Londonand had not known it, and laugh at my own tales about dragging her to meet foreign celebrities as she visited me at work abroad

"Lo.a's Wonderful Life" is a testament to how deeply grateful and happy my nephews are with the love that surrounds them. They couldn't wait to give that love back-and now, they have

We don't need to look for Frank Capras to present us with timeless pieces of art. We only have to search within our own circle of young filmmakers to recognize that the most beautiful and memorable creations come from the sincerest and most joving of hearts!



THE AUTHOR (foreground, center) with some members of the Cruz-Romero clan.

Reassessment needed in Metro filmfest judging

By Nestor U. Torre

THREE YEARS AGO, I AGREED TO serve as a judge in the Metro filmfest awards competition. That turned out to be a positive experience, since the movies and film artists who emerged as winners in the festiva, that year were generally deserving.

. As a result, the 2003 Metro filmfest awards were largely approved of by film people and the viewing public. In sfact, some observers said 2003 was one of the most credible years as far as the filmfest awards were concerned.

Credible

, So, the following year, I again agreed to be a filmfest juror. I thought that the festival's positive experience the year before would encourage the filmfest to push for credible awards again in 2004.

Alas, it didn't turn out that way. For one reason or other, the 2004 awards winners weren't as deserving as the 2003 awardees.

This has become especially critical. was when "Panaghoy sa Suba" didn't during this time, when so many film-win the best picture plum. It was so makers have compromised their own clearly superior to the other entries standards, for survival's sake. that its clinching only the second best

picture award was anacceptable.

That was one of the factors that prompted me to decline the invitation to serve as judge in the 2005 festival competition. Now that the recently concluded filmfest's winners are being criticized by a number of film people, I realize that I did the right thing.

Standards of excellence

The credibility of film awards is important to me, because movie competition winners are supposed to set standards of excellence.

If undeserving productions or artists win awards, impressionable people, particularly the youth, may get wrong ideas about what constitutes excellent filmmatting in these Therefore, we must all do what we

truly outstanding and deserving movie people, because what would the cinematic arts be without objective standards of quality?

can to support, honor and reward our

principled film artists are doing better work in the movies. If they lose out to better-connected artists, it could cause them to give up the fight to make supenor movies despite the inhospitable film times.

Difficult question

So, how can the Metro filmfest awards competition recover the ground it's lost this year? Alas, that's a difficult question that deserves a complex answer:

First, the festival needs to go back to its original focus on quality, so that giving awards makes sense.

Second, the composition of the board of judges should be truly above-board. Third, our film artists should once again do their best work for the festival.

Fourth, the filmfest should not be dominated by only a few producers, and should open its doors to a democratic mix of all sorts of movie artists, including digital filmmakers.

Does the festival have the genuine resolve to reform, tself in these and other ways? If the answer is yes, it can be given another chance, If it's in the negative, the filmfest had better get used to At the same time, newer and more fending off brickbats for years to come.

Leaving home

A PARENT ONCE ASKED MY TEACHER, JAgad Guru Siddhaswarupananda Paramahamsa. "My 19-year-old son is leaving home. I feel disturbed because he's not very strong spiritually, and he might have a difficult time away from the spiritual environment we provide at home." To answer him, my teacher pointed

1. Children want to leave home because that is how the world works. Like birds, they want to leave their nest once their wings develop. Nature allows children to develop the desire for independence. Parents shouldn't try to keep their children longer than necessary for their own enjoyment or sense of secu-

Spiritual life

2. There's no guarantee that children will likewise want to practice their parents' spiritual life. A parent can't pred ct what his child's choices will be when he gets older All that a father or mother can do is to provide opportunities for his or her child to appreciate the existence of the Supreme Being.

When children seave home, the lessons

Lotus POND

R. Valencia and S. Bismark



they learn from their parents will leave favorable memories, in the future, when they reasize the miseries of material life, they will remember the happiness and peace that a healthy spiritual life brings.

3 Parents can't make decisions for their aids, Loving is based on free will. It is volun-

4. Parents should keep their doors open for communication. Let your kids know that your love for them is anconditional. Be a medium for the compassion of the Supreme Person

5. Parents always think of their child's weilbeing. They can't stop loving the ch.ld even if he doesn't want to listen. And, they pray for guidance and enlightenment.

VCF celebrates volunteerism *rom page A2-1

Philippines.

Marquez felt that the music video put across the fellowship's core values very weal. Darek Sockie notes, "Because the team shared the same motivation, there was more passion."

The talents included Ayen Mung-Laurel, Samantha Chavez-Que and Barbie A.mab's. "Celebrate Lafe" was penned by Jose Villanueva III and arranged by Gilbert Espiridion. Luchie Huang did the vocals. "Everyone gave

what he could," Laurel shares.

Values

In the music video, the vatues of life-family, devotion, commitment, friendship, charity-are integrated in seamless continuity

Pastor Arie, calls it a story of faith, "When God wants something done, it will happen! We can see God's hand every step of the way. With Christ, life is an endless celebration!"

SATURD AY Special

Big Time' goes mainstream

By Nestor U. Torre

IGTIME," ONE OF OUR

favorite 2005 Cinefilmfest entries,

is finally going mainstream starting Jan. 25 We're quite sure that the digital movie will click with local viewers, particularly teenagers and young adults.

The film is about two sma...time crooks trying to hat it big. However, their carefully-pianned kidnapping goes terribiy wrong-with hilarious results

Lead roles are played by Jamie Wilson, Winston Elizalde, Nor Domingo, Michaei de Mesa and Joanne Miller.

Cautionary tale

When we judged all of the phases of the first Cinemalaya tilt, the story me of "Big Time" caught our attention early on because of its amusingly cautionary tale about people who get out of their depth and are foiled by their own excessive ambitions.

project's screenplay was simiiarly outstanding because it plotted the story's development in an eventful way, and amned full-blown characters who were entertainingly varied and idiosyncratic.

Best of all, the finished film successfully screen. Key in this area are the cast's antic per-mainstream, to reach a wider audience. formances, which raise the movie's level of nonslapstick absurdity to an even higher level.

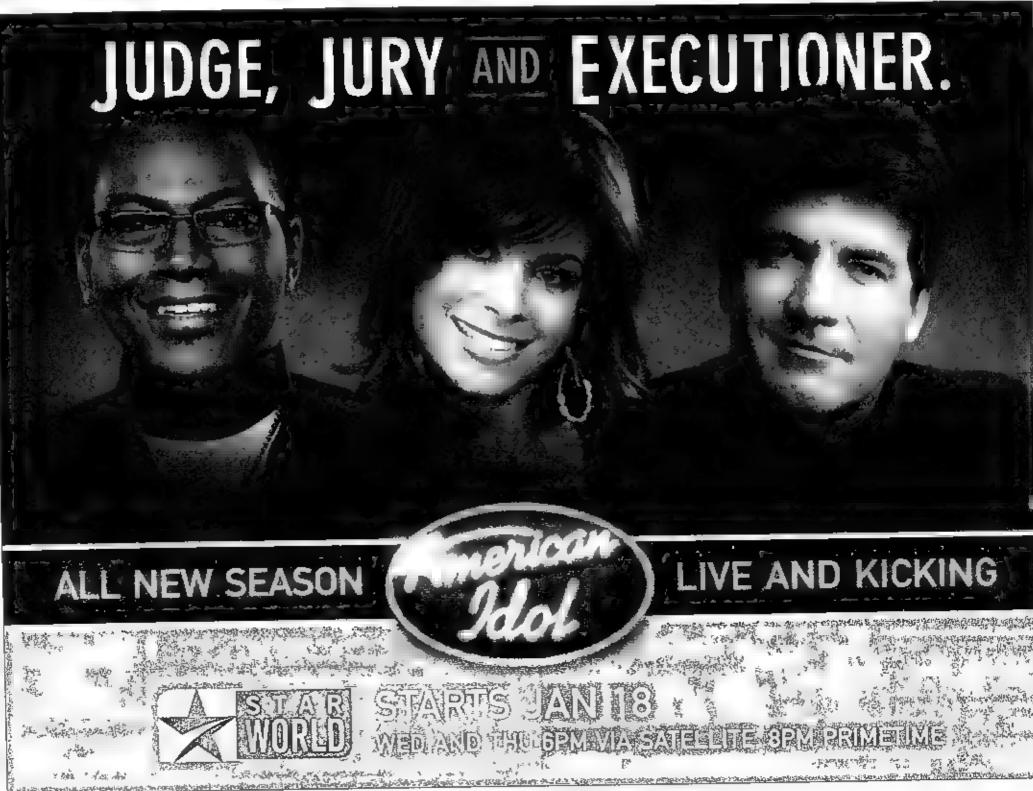
"Big Time" was one of the hits at the Cine-

transported the material's best suits to the big malaya filmfest, which is why it is now going

Unlike other digital movies that have been converted to 35mm film, however, "Big Tame"

W ON Exceptional performance and charisma.







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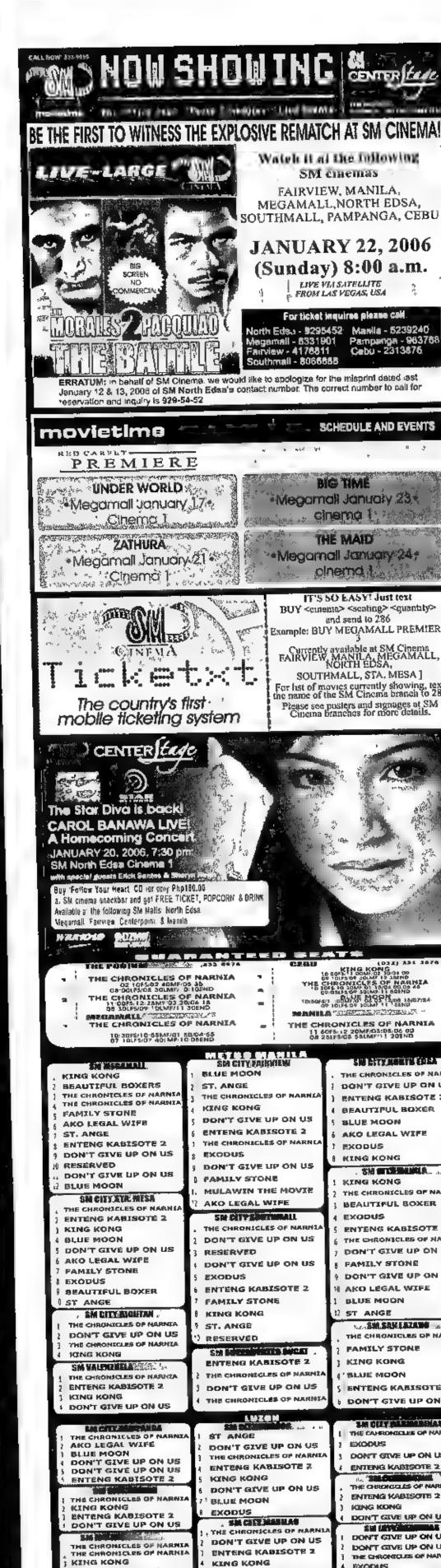
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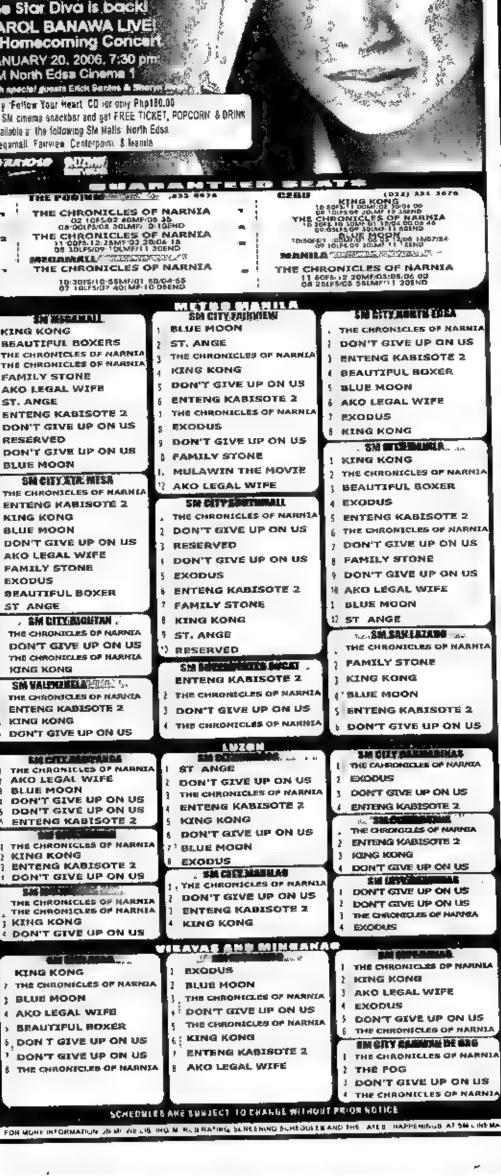
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SATURDAY, IANUARY 14, 2006

Restrained, soporific sound in 'Amarantine'

By Noelani Torre

IRISH CHANTEUSE Enya may not be a proafic recording artist, but then, she doesn't need to be. She has released only six aibums in the course of 20 years and, more importantly, sold more than million copies worldwidel



Enya, in fact, is the second biggest-selling second biggest-Irish artist in history-topped only by U21 history.

ENYA, She is the selling Irlsh artist in

This fact may come as a surprise. "Otherworldly" though it may seem, Enya's music is, universally appealing. Her pure, soaring voice, hushed melodies, and highly atmospheric tone have proven to be an irresistible combination for quite a number of people, most particularly those in need of destressing. You have to admit that after a beche day, a bit of Enya can be bracing, indeed!

Distinctive

Five years after the release of the ultra-successful "Day Without Rain" (her biggest-selling album thus far), Enya brings us more of her distinctive brand of music in her seventh album, "Amarantine."

There's nothing particularly different in this album Fans and more observant listeners, however, will be able to discern a few changes here and there.

There's the language, for one Enya doesn't sing a word in her native Gaene this time around. Instead, she expresses herself in Enthis manne, a same in the wife. Created annuaced of Intime

Though the mound by ming and the use of chanting choral back-ups are still very much present, you can feel a more restrained hand at the helm. The atmosphere in "Amarantine" isn't quite a heavily infound workshame to her early in all the Mines are option, and distribute you nonce Enya's undernably lovely voice more,

Unfortunately, it also has the tendency to make you feel soporific, lethargic, and just plan spacedout. Relaxation is good-but, brain death isn't!

There are some tracks that have non-sleep-inducing effects. In "The River Sings," along with "Water Shows the Hidden Heart" and "Long, Long Journey." there's some sort of Celtic mouth music going on that injects some badly needed vitality into the album.

Unfortunately, three songs out of 13 isn't a partic-

marly impressive number Still, the rest of the iot is very much Enys, and those who've waited five years for "Amarantine" will be glad to know that.

'Big Time'.

From page A3-1

has opted to remain digital, and will be screened in some 10 digitally-equipped SM theaters.

Gambit

We have been plugging for this sort of mainstream release strategy for d.gtal films, because it saves the producer the P800,000-p.us needed to convert digital to celluioid. So, we hope that "Big Time's" gambit succeeds and the film turns out to be a hit.

We also hope that the movie's big-screen rejease will make stars out of its deserving young leads, especially Jamie Wilson and Joanne Miller, whose performances and chansma are exceptional

To help make all of these good dungs happen, make it a point to catch "Big Time" when it opens on the SM cinema circuit.

Incentive

For further incentive, please be informed that the movie won best screenplay and best sound/ musical score honors at the Cinemaiaya awards, and has been graded "A" by the Cinema Evaluation Board.

Fewer than 10 movies have gotten an "A" since the CEB started operating, so that's a big endorsement, indeedl





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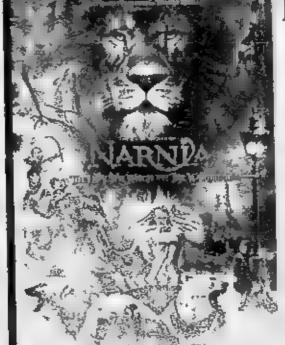
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SATURDAYSpecial

Ina Feleo's time to shine has come

By Nestor U. Torre

CHRONICLES OF NARNIA

GP 2:00,5:00,8:00

KING KONG

2:40.6:20,10:00

WE'RE THRILLED TO LEARN THAT INA Feleo, Johnny Delgado and Laurice Guillen's 20-year-old daughter, is playing Juliet in

Tel. No. 5981410-41

CHRONICLES OF NARNIA GP

12:00,3:00,6:00,9:00

CHRONICLES

10,4:10,7 10,10:10

performed at the AFP Theater. Yam Yuzon plays Romeo, and Ricky Abad directs. We've known Ina since she was a tot, and

have seen her grow up into a gifted actress and fine person.

Missions

Early on, we had a unique experience with her when we went with Johnny and Laurice on some of their religious missions to different parts of the country.

Ina and her older sister Ana joined their parents on their religious sorties, and became spiritual themselves. During some religious services, the girls helped minister to the

Shakespeare's "Romeo and Juliet," now being droves of people in attendance.

In fact, Ina and Ana themselves would sometimes "slay" us "in the spirit." Imagine, a big hig like us, spiritually "felled" by two little As they grew older, Ana studied at the UP

College of Music, became a gifted singer, and performed in some of our musicals. For her part, Ina got so interested in ice-skating that she became a champion, and even took up more studies in the sport in the States.

Later, TV beckoned, and Ina acted in a soap opera. Then, she joined the Bayanthan Dance Company, and performed in many of its shows, both here and abroad.

All this while, we've been urging Laurice to



FELEO. Playing Juliet should launch her acting career in a major way.

cast her daughter in one of her productions. We even suggested in for the title role in "Santa-Santita," but Laurice cast Angelica Panganiban, instead

Last year, we finally got our wish to see Ina acting on the big screen, when she was cast as the Blessed Virgin Mary in the "Birhen ng Manaoag" movie. Sadly, however, she was used poorly in the film, and thus didn't make a strong unpression.

That's why we're happy that Ina is playing Juliet. Clearly, she can't but make an impact in the attention-calling rose, and it should launch her acting career in a major way.

Of course, Ina has to put up with the usual distractions, like people comparing her to her mother, who's one of our best stage-TV film actresses, as de from being a director and film industry leader of note.

Some people will also sniff that, due to her genes and her parents' "connections," Ina is having an easy time of it in her nascent acting career

Naysayers

Sorry to disappoint the naysayers, but Ina auditioned for the role of Juliet, and won it over many other asparants—on her own mer-

As for being unfairly compared to her mother, Ina should just ignore the irrelevant comparisons, and focus on giving her personal best to the plum role, period. And, not to worry: She should be more than up to the thrilling challenge!

Sunday treat

SUNDAYS ARE A treat for me. First, the soul gets fed at Sunday service, then a dining adventure follows.

Last week was par ticularly special. We got an invitation from Pastor Peter and his wife, Deonna, Our destination: Masters Sandy Daza



WORD OF

Wok at the Podium. Masters Wok is at the fifth floor of the Podium on ADB ave. in Mandaluyong. It is a brightly-lit Chinese restaurant that serves one of the best-tasting cuisines in Manila.

Difference

Pastor Peter loves to eat. Our difference? He always likes to eat hearthy, while I sometimes don't. Since he was the host, he did all

We had seafood spinach soup, braised minced pork bean curd, Yang Chow fried rice, sweet and sour fish fillet, Masters Wok special hot pot, steamed lapu-lapu soy sauce, and Hong Kong roast duck.

We started with the roast duck, It was crunchy, had hardly any bones, and its plam sauce tasted exactly like what is served in Hong Kong. The seafood spinach soup was totally new to me-and I loved it!

The braised minced pork bean curd, while not exceptional, was also good. And I loved the Yang Chow fried rice: It was loose, bright yellow, hardly oily, and had the most simple but authentic-tasting flavor

Winner

Another winner was the sweet and sour fish fillet. I loved the boneless fish with a nice

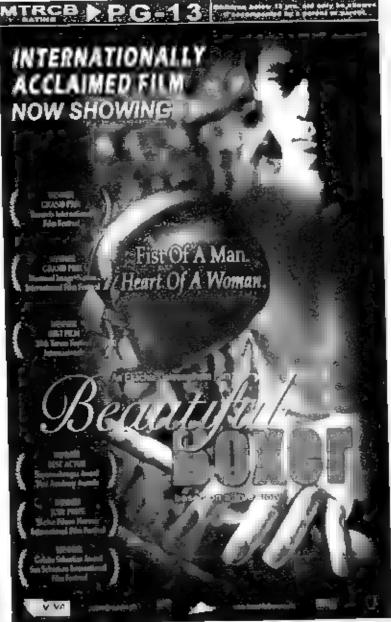
crunch and sauce. But, I will not forget the Masters Wok special hot pot, it had tons of ingredients-a perfectly-made sauce, morsels of chicken, mushrooms and strands of corn hair. We ended with chilled watermelons, mangoes and me-

Call Masters Wok at 633-2406, or 0917 534-6655.

Happy eating!

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Julie, Tina, Elaine who?

By Behn Cervantes

SHOULD YOU EVER PLAY THE MOVIE TRI-

jazz dancing exponent in the '50s and '60s,

Oblicing expension in the 50s and 50s,



NEWMAR, Original Catwoman.

via game, here's an intriguing question you can field to your group: "Who is Julie Newmar?" "Julie who?," the

"Juhe who?," the young and uninformed may query—but, ask any movie fan of the '50s and '60s, and he will quickey identify Newmar as the original Catwoman on "Batman," the television series starring Adam West.

Otherwise, Ms
Newmar is remembered as one of the
most stunning and
statuesque actresses
of the '60s. Otherwise, however, she
was merely decorative in most films assigned to her

Fine dancer

Since Newmar was a fine dancer, she landed a featured role in "Band Wagon." Thereafter, she was cast as the most gorgeous of Jane Powell's abducted sisters in the high-energy musical, "Seven Brides for Seven Brothers."

Despite her impressive assets, Julie was a serious performer who trained not only as a dancer but as an actress, as well. She proved her worth by winning Broadway's Tony Award for her performance in "The Marriage-Go Round," and then starred in its film version in

Newmar returned to Broadway as Stupefyin' Jones in the wacky musical, "Lil Abner." She had the same paralyzing effect on the audience when she appeared in the film version soon after.

Competition

Women considered her unfan comperition because she seemed to have too much of every thing—she was a Nordic amazon with a beautiful face, a curvaceous body to die for, plus a surplus of seductive charm! Despite her obvious advantages, however, producers had difficulty finding proper roles for her

Dancer-choreogra pher Juhe Borromeo, Manila's foremost



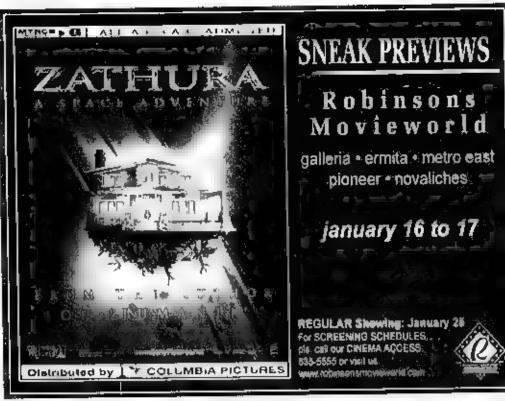


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Judy Ann, Piolo thrill fans anev

By Rito P. Asilo

"Don't Give Up On Us"

D: Joyce Bernal S: Judy Ann Santos, Piolo Pascual, Hilda Koronel, Tommy Abuel

JOYCE BERNAL RETURNS TO WINNING romcom form in Judy Ann Santos and Piolo Pascual's "reunion" movie-well, almost

When headstrong, ambitious ad executive, Abby (Santos), rushes to Baguio to look for her brother's runaway fiancée, she meets carefree,

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reluctant singer, Vince (Pascual), and drags him further north-from Banawe to Sagada-to accom-

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4: Narnia

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plish her mission. But, instead of finding a resolution to her brother's soured relationship, she ends up finding something else: Love.

Abby and Vince are polar opposites, but the undeniable attraction is there. However, when the reality of Abby's city-girl life sinks into the duo's consciousness, the heady scent of romance, the glorious vistas and the cool, cuddie-conducive weather start to lose their magic-or, do they?

After some unfortunate missteps, Bernal is back on track-with a more mature and confident Judy Ann and Prolo in tow. The charismatic pair fires up a considerable amount of chemistry and movie magic as they banter, hope for the brokenhearted.

3: Dont Give Up

OR Us

5: King Kong

4: Narola



PASCUAL AND SANTOS. More confident.

bicker, flirt and kiss.

Pascual, with his Brad Pitt-like tresses, is dreamy and efficient, and is even more charming to behold when he lets himself loose. But, it's Santos who defity demonstrates how much she's grown as an actress on point of versatility-by leaps and bounds! She is believable as a tough career woman. And she is also as hilarious as she is endearing in comic scenes—you should see her when she's drunk!

Sparks fly from beginning to end, but the sparkle dims toward the end of the film's awkward and manipulative final third act.

Bernal's storytelling gifts—with the help of Santos, Pascual, Hilda Koronel and Tommy Abuel (whom we have sorely missed on the big screen for sometime now)-are on full display here: The filmmaker has the uncanny ability to put hilarious and heartwarming spins on mundane situations. She knows how to convey humor, sadness and longing.

indeed, in her films-the well-realized ones, at least-we see the hopeless romantic in her, especially in scenes that, despite their overtly sad tone, still leave some glummer of

Humbing attention to detail

By Noelani Torre

FOR THOSE WHO'VE HEARD THAT Disney's "The Chronicles of Namia: The Lion, The Witch, and The Wardrobe" is "The Passion' for luds," be not afraid. Your children will not leave this movie feeling shell-shocked and/or subbing their hearts out-and neither will you.

Yes, it is, at heart, a Christian allegory, but this means that things here are symbolic, not literal.

"Namia" is based on the well-loved book-one in a senes of seven-by C.S. Lewis, which was first published more than 50 years ago. The book itself, with its humor, strong characters, and flights of fantasy that are nevertheless grounded in reality, is an enthralling read. But, it is not the book or its New Testament foundations that we're looking at here.

In fact, if you want to make movie comparisons, the right film to put side by side with "Narnia" isn't Mel Gibson's, but the "Harry Potter" and "Lord of the Rings" franchises. How then does "Narma" fare in comparison? Not too badly, but not too well,

Directed by "Shrek's" Andrew Adamson, "Narma" is visually lavish, and is blessed with a talented cast. It is faithful to the book, but it is also strangely two-dimensional, flat, and a few thrills shy of a truly exciting cinematic experience.

The story itself can hardly be im-

proved upon. It is World War II and, to keep them safe from the blitz, the Pevensie children-Peter (William Moseley), Susan (Anna Popplewell), Edmund (Skandar Keynes), and Lucy (Georgie Henley)-are sent to the house of an eccentric professor (Jim Broadbent) in the country.

Gateway

Soon, the youngest (Lucy) discovers an old wardrobe, which turns out to be the gateway to a magical land called Namia, where the evil White Witch (Tilda Swinton) holds sway.

The story isn't the problem, it's the execution. Things look good at first, especially when Lucy first discovers Namia. But, Adamson doesn't capitalize on this buryeoning sense of wonderment. The rest of the movie feels like a suspension of sorts-like being on the brink of something marvelous, but never taking the plunge.

In the end, it is the numbing attention to detail that drags the film down. With all the visual elements to play around with, the filmmakers forgot the most important point-making the audience



HENLEY, KEYNES, POPPLEWELL AND MOSELEY. "Namia's" talented quartet.

Julie, Tina . . .

adds a footnote: She recalls that she was in the same dance class as Newmar in Manhattan. Newmar was so tall that she used to cover the studio's mirror that our Julie needed to check if her moves were

Another stunner in "Lil Abner" was Tina Louise, who burst on the screen as the seductive Griselda in the much-publicized film adaptation of Caldwell's "God's Little Acre."

Impressive

Nevertheless, despite the Actors' Studio training and that impressive debut, she was similarly relegated to decorative roles in "The Hangman" and "The Warrior Empress," until she was shipwrecked a decade later on "Gilligan's Island." There, she enjoyed well-deserved stellar television credit.

Another stunner was brunette Elaine Stewart. The tall and very beautiful Elame made a memorable entrance on impressive marble steps in "The Bad and The Beautiful." Stewart had just snatched Kirk Douglas from Lana Turner, no less. So, talk about an impressive debut!

Flaine was New York's top photographic model, and was endowed with perfectly dessical features-and a svelte body, to booti

However, she played mostly decorative roles in "Take The High Ground" with Richard Widmark, and "The Tales of Hajji Baba."

'Javadelic'

ARTIST JUDY RAZON IS EXHIBITING HER digital travel photographs. Married to musician Bo Razon, she has traveled to exotic countries, where she found her subjects.

Lifestyle show

She is the writer and director of the long-running lifestyle show, "Tahanang Pinoy," on ABC S, and currently helms "Men's Room" on Studio

In the last few years, Judy photographed extraordinary subjects in places like Paris, Rome, Milan, Tuscany, Thailand and Cambodia. She combines her love for brewed coffee and visual images in her latest endeavor



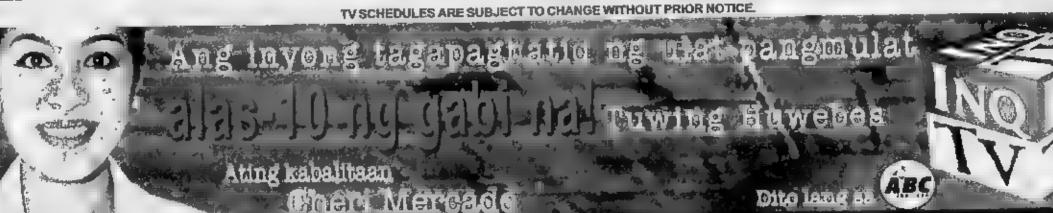
Navasero

In her current exhibit, "Javadelic," she collaborates with Digo Ricio, an ans and crafts teacher for lods at the Ateneo de

"Javadehe" is on display at the Penguin Café and runs until Feb. 12.

The Penguin Café is at 604 Remedios St., corner J. Bocobo. Malate in Mamila.





Agri growth falls short of '05 target



JOSE Mario C. Bufing waits for President Arroyo in Malacañang Friday to take his oath as BIR chief, officially making him the country's "Mr. Taxman." Budag has drafted his own 10-point agenda for more efficient tax collection services.

But gov't sees farm sector expanding by 4% this year

By Christine A. Gaylican

GROWTH OF THE AGRICULture sector last year fell short of the official target at 2.24 percent due to droughts that damaged major crops in the first half, the Department of Agriculture said vesterday.

But the farm sector, which accounts for a fifth of the country's gross domestic product, was expected to shake off the effects of last year's El Niño dry weather pattern and grow by 4-4.5 percent this year, it said.

In 2004, agricultural output grew 5.2 percent. "Agriculture managed to surpass its 2004 record performance ... despite the mild El Niño that persisted in the first quarter of 2005," Agriculture Secretary Domingo Panganiban told reporters, adding the sector also took a beating in the rainy season in the third quarter.

For the fourth quarter of last year, agricultural output was 3.3 percent higher than a year earlier. The government had said it expected farm

sector growth of at least 3 percent in 2005. Last year's GDP growth was now seen at 5.1 percent at best, below the target of 5.3 percent. The government will announce 2005 GDP data on Jan. 30

Production of rice, the country's staple food, grew by only 0.73 percent to 14.6 miltion tons in 2005 from the previous year.

Corn output fell 2.95 percent to 5.3 million tons, burt by the dry spell that cut production in the first half and flooding due to typhoons in the second half.

The Philippines, one of the world's top rice importers in 2005, plans to ship in at least a million tons this year

Gregorio Tan, administrator of the National Food Authority, said on Thursday the rice imports this year were unakely to exceed the 1.8 million tons the Philippines bought in

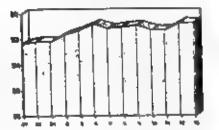
Aside from nee and corn, major Philippine crops include coconuts and coconut products. sugar, tropical fruit, coffee and tobacco.

Panganiban said that for 2006, the agency was targeting to double the sector's growth and that government economic managers were considering to pump-prime the agriculture sector with the release of P3.2 billion in funding in the first quarter.

"We are proposing that in spite of a re-enacted budget for this year we would need to front-load the required budget for irrigation and inputs necessary to create a recovery for the agriculture sector this year," said Pangani-

He noted that some P2.7 billion was need-

URRENCIES

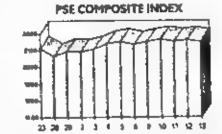


PESO-DOLLAR RATE

As of 5 p.m., Jan. 3, 2006 GOLD: \$545,70-546,28

per ounce Hong Kong, Jan. 13, 2006

STOCK MARKET



(See stock market report on Page 82) Shares down 0.5% on political concerns



SHARES declined yesterday as avestors chose to wait for fresh political developments ahead of the ruling party's

weekend caucus to discuss constitutional

Dealers said investors also took profits for owing losses overnight on Wall Street and that the market looked overbought forlowing its recent rise to a 10-month high, leaving stocks susceptible to profit-taking.

The benchmark 30-company Ph. Ippine Stock Exchange Index lost 10 38 points, or 0.5 percent, at 2,148.27, after rising 0.4 percent Thursday. Volume was 947-12 million shares worth P1 039 bit-For

Losers it at led gains 40 to 39, with 43 stocks unchanged

SHARES/ B2

JANUARY-NOVEMBER 2005

Remittances jump 27% to \$9.7B

By Doris C. Dumlao

REMITTANCES FROM OVERSEAS FILIPINO workers coursed through banks went up by 27 percent in the 11 months to November last year to \$9.7 billion from a year ago, fueung the peso's strong ascent against the dollar.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. yesterday reported that for the month of November alone, OFW inflows increased by 21.8 percent to \$895 million.

The 11-month remittance level was only \$1 billion short of the BSP's \$10.7-bil ion projection for the whole of 2005

Supported by strong remutances from OFWs percent to 900,639 from 867,125 a year ago.

and foreign investments, the peso appreciated by about 6 percent against the dollar last year.

"The sustained rise in remittances during the period may be attributed to the continuing demand for Filipino workers," Tetangco said.

OFW remittances are now regarded as a significant economic indicator in the Philippines as such inflows are lifting households out of poverty by boosting funds for education, health and entrepreneurship.

Preliminary data from the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration showed that the total number of deployed workers during the 11-month period increased by 3.9

"The continued preference for Filipino seabased and higher paid, land-based workers-such as production, professional and service staff-helped support the level of remutances during the 11-month period," Tetangco said.

Land-based workers comprised almost three-fourths of deployed workers at 674,365 while sea-based workers totaled 226,274

By country of desunation, most of the Filipino workers are deployed in Saudi Arabia, Hong Kong, Japan, the United Arab Emirates

"Moreover, the consistent effort by financial institutions to direct remittances through the

WHAT'S INSIDE

10 firms expected to list in '06

Transco bent on completing Mindanao facility

Finance wants LGU fund allocation scheme changed

By Michelle V. Remo

THE DEPARTMENT of Finance wants Congress to pass a bill that will restructure the internal revenue anotment (IRA) given to local government units (LGUs), hoping the move would prompt them to maximize their revenue-raising capabilities and participate in the national government's agenda of improving the fiscal climate

"(The current structure of the IRA) does not encourage LGUs to generate additional revenues to support additional expenditures. Thus, it does not have any fiscal stimulation effect on local finance on all leve's of local governments," the DOF said in a paper on its legislative proposals for 2006

Currently, in compliance with the Local Government Code, 40 percent of the national government's internal revenue collections are allocated for LGUs Of the amount, 23 percent goes to provinces, 34 percent to municipalihes, 23 percent to cities, and 20 percent to

The DOF said the IRA should be rationalzed in such a way that more adotments be given to LGUs that really lack resources, and make able ones lessen their financial dependence on the national government.

The proposal to adjust the IRA has been raised since 2004, when the administration admitted that the national government was suffering from a serious fiscal problem characterized by huge deficits and debts that seemed to be unamanagable then.

Rep. Joey Salceda even suggested that the government declare a "state of fiscal crisis" so it could invoke a provision in the Code allowing it to restructure the IRA in the event the fiscal problem reached unmanageable levels. The DOF, however, bucked the suggestion of declaring a "fiscal crisis," saying it could spook the financia, markets,

The suggestion of adjusting the IRA elicited both support and criticisms

FINANCE/ 87

DOI dismisses complaints against CAP, execs

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE HAS junked the criminal complaints filed against cash-strapped pre need firm College Assurance Plan Philippines Inc. (CAP) and cleared it of possible violation of securities laws

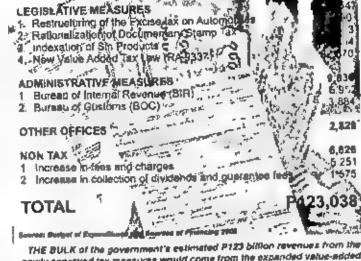
It also dismissed the SEC's complaint against CAP officials Alejandro Roces, Enrique Sobrepeña, James Thomson, Coronado Muñasque, Juan Flavier, Ernesto Espaidon, Robert John Sobrepeña, Gillian Akiko Thomson, Eusebio Tangco and Rafael Evangelista for lack of evidence.

In a Dec. 2 order, the DOJ said it found "no probable cause" sufficient to charge CAP for adeged violations of the Securities Regulation Code based on a complaint filed by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The order, which was released yesterday, was penned by DOJ first assistant provincial prosecutor

INQUIRER MONITOR

Figures that matter in our nation's life

List of approved new tax measures FY 2006 (in million pesos)



newly approved tex measures would come from the expanded value-added tax (P82.6 billion). This is followed by the indexation of existing taxes on ain products like eigereites using compounded inflation (P15.2 billion) and the Improvements in the tax collection systems of Biff and BOC.

Chora Galang, POI Research



CLOSE

JOW

VOLUME

(As of Jan. 13, 2005)

Business

10 firms expected to list in '06

By Elizabeth L. Sanchez

THE PHILIPPINE STOCK EXchange expects about 10 companies from different sectors to hold their initial public offerings thus

PSE president Francis Lim declined to identify all these companies but said that First Generation Corp., the utility firm of the Lopez Group of Companies, and Universal Robins Corp. of the Gokongweis would hold their IPOs in February.

First Gen is set to raise about P11.2 billion through its IPO on Feb. 10, while URC will list additional shares.

"Money is now being channeled through private fund managers for investment abroad. The chal-

PSE moves to win back funds invested in foreign markets

lenge now for the PSE is to work their public offerings this year. harder so that the money invested abroad will find its way back to the Philippines," Lim said.

He added that mining firm Carmen Copper was also set to list its shares on the PSE, as well as a small, export company which was hoping to raise P250-P300 million from the IPO in the second quarter of the year.

Lim is upbeat on the market's prospects for the year, given the expected growth in the economy.

Lim also expects television giant GMA Network Inc. and oil firm Pilipinas Sheli to pursue

He was also urging United Laboratories Inc., National Bookstore and health and beauty products distributor Splash to proceed with their IPO plans.

"The economic indicators are good. The peso has appreciated by 4 percent against the US dollar. The gross international reserves are at a record high and the fiscal deficit is being contained. These factors will encourage companies to list their shares," Lim said.

He said Splash had indicated its interest in going public which



he hoped would happen this year. From January to September, PSE's operating revenue surged 121 percent to P223 milion due to higher listing fees from the IPOs of SM Investments Corp. and Manila Water.

ALI, gov't lock borns over IS property price

By Daxim L. Lucis

PROPERTY GIANT AYALA LAND INC. (ALI) and the government remain locked in negotiations over the former International School campus in Makati City, with the property's price tag being the most contentious issue.

Speaking to reporters last Thursday evening, ALI president and CEO Jaime I. Ayala said price considerations were foremost on the firm's list of concerns over the five-

"It's a very good site," he said. "We already have a number of property in Makati, but if it's [offered at] the right price, we're always interested."

Ayala said local government-imposed zoning restrictions that prevented the property from being developed into a commercial site also failed to dampen his firm's interest.

A ranking government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the govern-

ment wanted to be paid in cash for the property, while ALI was offering a combination of cash and potential additional earnings, depending on the success of the property's development.

"What [ALI is] offering is a guaranteed cash portion and a 'non-guaranteed' upside," said the official who has knowledge of the negotiations. "But [the government] would rather have the entire amount up front."

He said the "semi-joint venture" nature of ALI's proposal was "difficult" to accept.

ALI, however, has its eyes set firmly on a joint venture project. "We prefer joint ventures with the landowners," Ayala said, explaining that it was easier to move real estate developments forward with the original owners still onboard the projects.

ALI is presently evaluating other joint venture projects with the national government, to add to its list of partnerships to develop state-owned assets.

He said the government had some "very

attractive assets" which ALI is interested in developing, although he declined to reveal specifics.

Current ALI- government JV projects include the North Triangle commercial project in Quezon City, and the Marketl Marketl, Serendra, and the Port Bonifacio Development Corp. projects in Taging City.

Robinsons Land Corp. of tycoon John Gokongwei Jr. is ALJ's closest rival for the property, for which the government's Privatization and Management Office (PMO) has set a floor price of P1.18 billion.

During the bidding ast November, however, representatives of both firms declined to submit their bids. Both reportedly want the PMO to further lower the floor price, despite the reduction earlier from from P1.9 billion.

Ayala said the site was ideal for an information technology-related project, since zoning rules of the Makati City government allow the area to be used only as an educational institution.

Smart offers new price package

By Clarissa S. Batino

SMART COMMUNICATIONS INC. AND AFFIL-'iate Talk N' Text launched a new marketing promo that was seen to further heighten the price war among major players in the telecommunication business.

Smart and Talk N' Text will start offering on Jan. 15 a fixed price of P10 for every 10minute call of their subscribers to Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. subscribers.

This is equivalent to only P1 per minute, which beats Globe Telecom Inc.'s 10-centavo for every second of call, equivalent to P6 per

However, the promo applies only to calls to PLOT and that the flat rate of P10 would be charged whether or not the call actually

reached 10 minutes Butch Jimenez, officer-in-charge of Smart's marketing division, said the newest promowould initially run up to Feb. 5 but could be

extended if warranted. The promo, he said, was open to all Smart or Talk N' Text prepaid customers, which stood at more than 20 million as of end-2005. PLDT has more than 2.1 million users.

"We are coming out with more innovative and flexible pricing packages to make telecommunications services more affordable and better attuned to the needs of our subscribers," said Jimenez.

Just recently, PLDT had re-launched its P10-per-call pricing scheme to all PLOT, Smart and Talk N' Text subscribers.

To avail themselves of the P10 for 10minute PLDT calls, Smart subscribers must

ed to repair and construct irrigation facilities

covering 1.2 million hectares of farmlands na-

Bonwide. Some P500 million would be specif-

ically allocated for the purchase and distribu-

Panganiban said that repair of the irriga-

tion facilities was long overdue due to slow

disbursement of government funds. With a

tion of inputs such as seeds and fertilizers

type 02888111, send to 883). Upon sending the number to 883 via text, the subscriber will receive a call also from

type the area code and the PLDT number of

the subscriber and send to 883. (Example:

883. Immediately after answering the call, the subscriber wil, be connected to the PLDT number he wanted to reach. A minimum of P10 airtime balance is need-

ed to make a call under the promo, said Jamenez. Otherwise, the subscriber will get the message informing him that the balance was insufficient to complete the call. Smart subscribers with SuperSIM cards

have the option to download a special menuby typing "call" and sending it to 211

Regular rates will apply starting the 11th minute of the call.

Globe is asking the National Telecommunications Commission to undo the P10-per-call pricing scheme of PLDT and its wireless affiliares. It claimed that this pricing scheme was predatory even if PLDT had offered to include other carriers in the promo-

PLDT, in a Dec. 6 letter to Globe, said that it could include its fierce rival in the promo if it would agree to adjust the termination rate between Globe and PLDT

For calls up to 15 million minutes, PLDT proposed an access charge of P3.50 from the current P4 a minute for Globe to PLDT and P3 for PLDT to Globe.

The next 2.5 million minutes (15 million to 17.5 million) should be covered by an access rate of P2.50 a minute then down to P1 a minute for the next 2.5 million (17.5 million

Shares down 0.5%

The ruling Lakes political party is scheduled to hold a crucial caucus today to discuss a proposed shift to parliamentary government that may affect President Macapagal Ar-

"The market is generally optimistic, although I think some people are a little bit concerned on the political situation," said Pitzgerald Acian, research head of Wealth Securities in Manila.

report from Reuters 27% to \$9.7B Remittances jump

banking channels also contributed to the higher level of remittances," Tetangeo said.

He said such efforts focused on the introduction of unproved system of money transfer, establishment of remittances centers abroad and arrangements with foreign financial institutions to service the bunking needs of oversess workers.

Including inflows coursed through the informal channels--referring to unkeensed or unregulated operations such as friends, acquaintances or other travelers-OFW remittances last year were estimated at \$12.3 billion.

Based on studies on the Mexican experience, remittances held as deposits in the banking sys-

DOJ junks complaints against CAP

Jaime L. Umpa and three other state prosecu-

out any specific act that would show CAP's involvement or participation in the supposed violations of the SRC."

"It is fairly evident that the complainant merely resorted to abstract and general averments on the duties of the board of directors and officers (of CAP). The complaint suffers from vagueness and generalization," it point-

The SEC filed a criminal complaint with the DOJ last September against CAP for the re-The DOJ also said the SEC "failed to point ported illegal sale of plans after its permit to sell was suspended by the corporate regulator

The SEC said CAP sold 6,434 worth of unregistered plans worth P325.3 million between June and August 2004. Of this, P47 96 million have been paid by plan holders. The SEC's non-traditional securities department earlier certified that CAP's P5 billion worth of fixed value education plans were sold out as

UK company putting up aviation school

A UK-BASED COMPANY IS INVESTING \$15.6 million to put up a world-class aviation school at the Clark Special Economic Zone (CSE2)

International Aviation Group (IAG) chair and CEO Mark Pearson signed an agreement with CDC for the project, which was expected to commence operations in May

Pearson said the firm would also infuse an additional \$12.5 million in its second year of operations following the arrival of more training equipment including flight simulators by 2007.

"Initially, we will have three flight training devices; two fixed-base simulators covering the basic and intermediate phases of the flight instruction, and a A320 Level D full flight simulator," he said.

The school will focus on training for Airbus 320 aurcraft

IAG's partners in the project include Prescient Systems and Technologies Pte. Ltd. of India and SREI Infrastructure Finance Limited of Singapore. The new facility will not only address the serious shortage of pilots in Asia and around the world but will also serve as a pilot recurrent training facility for airlines in

The firm is also intending to recruit and train, if necessary, local instructors with the objective that ultimately the majority of the instructors will be Filipinos.

From page 01

Analysts said risks to the positive outlook on the Philippines include a repeat of the political turmoil in the third quarter of last year amid opposition charges that Ms Arroyo rigged the 2004 election.

"We're seeing some pockets of profit-taking which is only normal since the market has been trading higher since the start of the week," said Ohver Plana of Assasec Equities.

tern have a beneficial multiplier effect of between two to three times as these could be channeled to investments in small and microbusinesses.

The BSP is aggressively promoting the use of formal banking channels as a safer and more productive cash remittance system for Pilipinos working abroad.

From page B1

of June 2004.

In June 2004, CAP reported an over-issuance of unregistered plans worth P64.27 million. Of this amount, a total of P24.97 mislion was paid by the plan holders to CAP

The SEC said it also found that CAP continued to sell unregistered plans from July 1 to 31. CAP also admitted selling 2,456 unregistered plans in July 2004 worth P206.24 million. Of this amount, P18.71 million were paid by unregutered plan

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Finance wants

The leadership of the Philippine Association of Local Treasurers and Assessors (Phaltra) expressed support for the proposal. Phaltra president Victor Endriga, concurrently Quezon City treasurer, said rich cities like QC should even agree to give up their share of the IRA to give way to

poorer LGUs. But some LGUs have opposed the proposal, saying trumming down the IRA would adversely affeet economic growth down the public services.

Sen. Ralph Recto filed a bill protecting the LGUs' share in national government revenues. Under Senate Bill No. 1388, which amends the Local Government Code, the President is prohibited from adjusting the IRA even amid a fiscal problem by the national government.

Recto said allowing the President to adjust the IRA poses threat on the sufficient delivery of

BUSINESS



Transco bent on completing Mindanao facility

Sangali-Pitogo transmission link expected to address rising power demand in Zamboanga

By Abigall L. Ho

SET ON PREVENTING A POWER crisis in Mindanao, the National Transmission Corp. (Transco) is bent on finishing the P1.1-billion Sangali-Pitogo 138-kilovolt (kV) transmission project by the end of 2007

Alan Ornz, Transco president and chief executive, yesterday said in a statement that the Miyazawa-funded project was proceeding on schedule.

Ortiz said the transmission facility would boost power retiability and had likewise been awarded.

quality in Western Mindanao.

The project involves the construction of a 32-kilometer, 138-kV double circuit steel tower transmission line from Transco's Sangali substation to the new Pitogo substation in Zamboanga City.

By the end of this month, Ortiz said the required insulator assemblies and accessories would have been delivered. Contracts for the supply and delivery of steel towers, optical ground wires, power conductors and associated hardware

for the turn-key construction of the 100-megavolt-ampere (MVA) Pitogo substation, Ortiz said.

The contract for the third project component, which consisted of the supply of labor and equipment for the construction of the 32-km transmission line, would be up for bidding by the third quarter, with the actual contract expected to be awarded by the fourth quarter

Since the entire Sangali-Pitogo project would be an upgrade of the existing 69-kV line, Ortiz said

ing route to avoid affecting new lots and densely populated areas.

Upon completion, the Sangali-Pitogo link will provide reliable bulk power services in Mindanao and address the long-term power requirements of the Zamboanga City Special Economic Zone located in San Ramon district.

The link is expected to serve the city's power transmission

needs for the next 10 to 15 years. of the Zamboanga City Area 138-kV

Transco is now evaluating bids Transco would be using the exist- Power Transmission Project, which aims to reinforce the existing transmission network and address the projected surge in power demand in Zamboanga City and the rest of Western Mindanao.

"With the much improved peace and order sintation, Mindanao is now an area of rapid growth," Ortiz said. "Thus, we are working relentlessly on several transmission line and substation projects under our Mindanao Transmission Augmen-The Sanga.i-Pitogo project is part tation Program to meet Mindanao's rising power demand."

NY-based software provider out to tap RP's call center market

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ORTIZ

THE LOCAL UNIT OF MANAGEMENT SOFTwere provider Computer Associates International Inc. is out to tap the relatively underserved Philippine call center market following its acquisition of a network service management service provider last year.

Joy Balmadres, Computer Associates country manager, said the call center and business process outsourcing industry would be a strong market to expand into, considering the popularity of the country as destination for outsourced services.

"CA is traditionally into mainframes and works mainly with clients in the banking and finance sector," Balmadres said. "We are looking at the BPO/CC sector since it is not yet highly penetrated."

CA, which is based in New York, will make ase of Concord Communications' expertise in tapping the market, she said

Owen Gan, a Singapore-based systems management expert who was originally with Concord, said they had started holding seminars to reach out to potential customers here.

"We now have six customers here, but we see a lot of potential for growth of business here," Gan said. "Systems management is an \$11.5-billion market worldwide in 2003, and it is seen to grow at a compound rate of 7.6 percent annually through 2008."

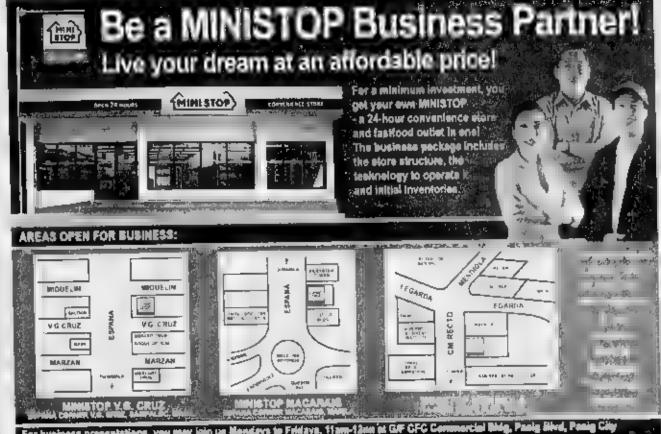
Gan said telecommunications firms and BPO firms would lose an average of \$3 million an hour whenever their systems shut down. The shutdowns usually last eight hours, costing the firms about \$24 million.

We are able to find a solution in half an hour, which translates to \$22.5 million in savmgs for our chents," he said

Asked whether third generation telecommunications service also offered the same potential for growth, Gan said this might not be so in the near future since 3G was not widely used in Asia outside of Japan and South Korea.

Balmadres said the cause of this was that people had not found a use for 3G communi-

"This is why 3G service providers are turning to content providers to find ways that would make 3G more useful in terms of everyday life," she said.





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A Beautiful (R) evolution



Also eveil of hessie-free leasing packages from TFS.

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SCIENCE/HEALTH

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Editor Cesar D. Mangawang Assistant Editor Stella O. Gonzales

No joke: Laughter could be really the best medicine

SAKA, JAPAN—IT HAS been said that laughter is the best medicine, but no one has yet to prove it. Now a Japanese scientist is unlocking the secrets of the funny bone, which he believes can cheer up people's genes.

Geneticist Kazuo Murakami has teamed up on the study with an unlikely research partner: stand-up comedians, who he hopes can turn their one-liners into efficient, low-cost medical treatment.

Genes are usually regarded as immutable, but in reality more than 90 percent of them are dormant or less active in . producing protein, so some types of stimulation can wake them up.

Murakami's tentative theory is that laughter is one such stimulant, which can trigger energy inside a person's DNA, potentially beloing cure disease.

"If we prove people can switch genes on and off by an emotion like laughter, it may be the finding of the century which should be worth the Nobel Prize or even go beyond that," said Murakami, 70, director of Japan's Foundation for Advancement of International Science.

Lower blood glucose levels

Three years ago, Murakamı and Yoshimoto Kogyo Co. Ltd., a leading entertainment company, jointly carried out their first experiment to let diabetics laugh at a comedy show performed by the firm's top stand-up comedians after listening to a monotonous co.lege lecture.

The two-day experiment showed that their brood glucose levels-a key gauge for development of diabetes-became lower after they laughed compared with after astening to the yawning lecture.



Murakami's latest experiment with the entertainment firm spotted at least 23 genes that can be activated Eighteen of them are designed to work for immune response, signal transduction and cell cycle, while functions of the remaining five others are still unknown.

The findings, which Murakam says are the first of their kind, are scheduled to be published in Psychotherapy and Psychosomatics, a US academic journal.

'How to laugh' DVD

"A laughing therapy has no side effect, meaning it is an epoch-making treatment for chnical medicine," Murakami said, "One day it won't be a joke to see patients receive a prescription for a comedy video at a pharmacy for medical

Having a good laugh has song been thought of as therapeutic. Laughter has been taught by yoga masters in India,

home to a growing number of "laughing clubs" whose members get together just to enjoy a chuckle.

Expectations from Murakami's research are particularly high in Japan, where medicare costs are increasing year after year as the country rapidly ages.

Even though the research was still in its early stages, a Japanese medical pubasher, under the editorial guidance of Murakami's research team, began selling DVDs last year instructing patients with diabetes on how to laugh.

Preventive medical care

The ministry of economy, trade and industry believes that laughter therapy could be put to good use in a project as demand grows for preventive medical

With the ministry's financial support, Osaka Sangyo University in western Japan formed a joint venture with re- joined the program.

searchers, firms and doctors in 2004 to provide elderly people with a complete medical care program combining physica, training and laughter therapy

Mitsutoshi Nishikawa, a university official in charge of the "Daito Dynamic Project," said Osaka was an ideal location to launch the project as the city is famous for its humor culture, with residents said to be less hesitant to laugh in public than more taciturn Tokyo

In the program, participants receive a medical checkup and gymnastic exercises while enjoying a comedy show performed by professional comedians, It also offers them cooking classes on making

According to project officials, the 92 participants polled said their combined annual medicare costs fell 23 percent to 2.26 million yen (\$19,800) after they

Eating well

A POPULAR NEW Year's resolution is to lose weight, but since this rarely extends beyond the first month, why not change it to eating right instead? Changes do not have to be drastic (such as switch. Queena N. ing to another Lee-Chua questionable diet); in fact, small



improvements can make a huge improvement in overall health. Taking vitamins and minerals regularly is something we can resolve to do (and keep the resolu-

We know all about vitamin C, vitamin E, calcium, but Dr. Lydia Marero of the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) reminds us of an often overlooked mineral, potassium.

She stares, "If you experience muscular weakness, increased nervous lrritability, mental disorientation, and cardiac irregularities, chances are your diet needs spicing up with a little more of

"The right amount of potassium is vital for muscle contraction, nerve impulses, hitch-free functioning of the heart and kidneys, and it helps regulate blood pressure and water balance in cells.

"Potassium influences fluid-electrolyte balance and acid-base balance, and plays a significant role in the activity of the skeletal and cardiac muscles It also contributes to the transmission of nerve impulses and to the maintenance of normal blood pressure."

For people with high blood pressure, food low in sodium and high in potassium are necessary. What's more, these foods need not be expensive. Take the banana (saba, latundan, gloria) and sweet potato (the yellow variety)-both contain around 400 mg of potassium. Other good sources are dried beans, dark green and leafy vegetables, fish and shelifish, eggs and other dairy products.

Eat more fish

Another resolution we can keep is to eat more fish, which has less total and saturated fat than meat and poultry. Fish, the perfect meat substitute, is also a source of omega-3 fatty acids, which can help lower the risk of heart attack. A great source of protein, fish can be grilled, broiled, baked, sauteed and steamed usually in about 10 minutes.

What more can a busy cook ask for? However, we need to select fish wisely. M. Balitaon of the FNRI gives the following reminders.

Fresh fish has no fishy odor. It should

be used within two days of purchase.

· Fish should be wrapped and stored

 Frozen fish should be undamaged. the fish should not be off-color, and no freezer burn should be seen.

· Fish filler should be moist with no drying or browning around the edges.

 Fish is ready to eat when it is opaque and flakes easily.

More protein sources

Other good sources of protein (and iron and B vitamins) are dried beans, regumes and nuts. Legumes are low in fat and high in fiber, and soybean products like tokwa, tofu and vegemeat are also good meat substitutes. FNRI media specialist Ma. Idelia Gloriosio says a cup of cooked manggo or a cup of raw peanuts can be substituted for a serving of meat.

Best of all, legumes are cheap. Beans can be cooked in many ways, such as menudo de garbanzos, pork and beans, kidney beans with goto, and nilubihang

For recipes, write or call: The Director, Food and Nutrition Research Institute, Department of Science and Technology, General Santos Avenue, Bicutan, Taguig City, Tei. No. 837-2934. You may also want to check the FNRI-DOST website www.fnri.dost.gov.ph

Solution to factoring problem

Regarding the factoring problems last: week, several readers got the answers But the best solution came from Arpee G Par [mabspar@yahoo.com], who gave the following details:

1. $(x^3 + y^3)^2 + x^5y - 3x^3y^3 + xy^5 = x^6$ $2x^3y^3 + y^6 + x^5y - 3x^3y^3 + xy^5 = (x^6 + y^6) + (x^5y - x^3y^3 + xy^5) = (x^2 + y^3)(x^4 + y^5) + (x^4 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5) + (x^4 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5) + (x^4 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5) = (x^6 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5) + (x^6 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5) + (x^6 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5) + (x^6 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5) = (x^6 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5) + (x^6 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5) + (x^6 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5) = (x^6 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5) + (x^6 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5) + (x^6 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5) + (x^6 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5) + (x^6 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5) + (x^6 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5)(x^4 + y^5) + (x^6 + y^5)(x^6 + y^6)(x^6 + y^6)$ $x^2y^2 + y^4$) + $(xy)(x^4 - x^2y^2 + y^4) = (x^4)$ $x^2y^2 + y^4$ ($x^2 + xy + y^2$)

 $2. a^3 + 3a^2b + 3ab^2 + 2b^3 - 6b^2c +$ $12bc^2 - 8c^3 = (a^3 + 3a^2b + 3ab^2 + b^3) +$ $(b^3 - 6b^2c + 12bc^2 - 8c^3) = (a^3 + 3a^2b +$ $3ab^2 + b^3$ + $(b^3 + 3b^2(-2c) + 3b(-2c)^2$ $+(-2c)^3$] = $(a + b)^3 + (b - 2c)^3$

Since this is a sum of two cubes, it can be further factored as:

 $[(a+b) + (b-2c)] [(a+b)^2 - (a+b)(b-2c)]$ 2c) + (b-2c)2], which finally gives us (a + 2b - 2c) (a2 + ab + b3 - 2bc + 2ac +

Learning more about hypertension, diabetes, cholesterol

By Rafael R. Castillo, MD

RENATO SIMON OF CEBU CITY ASKS IF his doctor did the right thing in prescribing a cholesterol-lowering drug belonging to the statin class even if his cholesterol level in the blood is still within normai range (180 mg/dl). He is also taking antidiabetic medications.

MEDICAL FILES

Statins and other cholestero-lowering drugs are primarily used to lower cholesterol levels, but they have other cardio-

vascular benefits not necessarily related to cholesterol lowering that can prevent heart attacks and strokes. This is called the pleiotropic effects of this type of drugs. Based on current clinical evidence, highrisk patients should benefit from statins regardless of their cholesterol levels.

We don't have a complete picture of Renato's risk-factor profile since he did

factor in males is age (above 45 years) stand their medical problems and the ra- ganizing committee chair, this preconven-So is a history of heart attack, stroke and tionale for each drug they're taking. I plead tion activity is part of a series of public edother cardiovascular problems in parents or siblings. Smoking, being overweight and sustained, uncontroded stress are additional risk factors.

Complete test

Ideally, one should get a complete chalesterol test which should include the high-density lipoprotein (good cholesterol), low-density hpoprotein (bad cholesterol) and triglycerides. Many people with normal total cholesterol levels also have low HDL, which is a risk factor.

Renato mentioned that he is diabetic. Diabetes is now considered a heart disease equivalent, meaning a diabetic already has the same risk-level as one who has an established heart disease. Diabetes, by itself, magnifies the cardiovascular risk of an individual. Renato's doctor did the right thing in prescribing a statin even if his chosesterol leve, is still normal.

guilty that I sometimes don't spend enough time explaining to my patients their disease and treatment. Doctors really need to make a conscious effort to do thus.

Lay forum

Recognizing the importance of patient education so they can be active partners in the treatment of their cardiovascular problems, the Philippine Society of Hypertension (PSH) and Philippine Lipid Society (PLS) are sponsoring a lay forum on life-threatening conditions that complicate hypertension, diabetes and cholesterol problems or dyslipidemia. This will be the kick-off activity for the 11th joint annual convention of the PSH

The lay forum is scheduled on Feb. 5 at the Edsa Shangm-La Hotel in Mandaluyong City. Medical experts will serve as resource speakers.

According to Dr. Esperanza Cabral, orucation campaigns conducted by the PSH and the PLS to help control the upsurge of cardiovascular diseases, which remain the country's top causes of deaths

All major risk factors including high blood pressure, diabetes, cholesterol problems, obesity, smoking and stress will be tackled by medical expens. Practical tips will be given on how to control these risk factors and prevent heart attacks and strokes.

The expert panel include Dr. Nelson Abelardo, PSH president; Dr. Mary Anne Lim-Abrahan, PLS president; and Dr. Ma Teresa Plata-Que, president of Philippine Diabetes Association, Overall coordinator of the forum is Dr Rosa Allyn Sy.

The forum is open to the public for free but due to limited seats, advance registration is required. For inquiries call the PSH-PLS secretariat at 631 7970, 687-7073 or 687-2841 Deadline for registration is Jan. 27

Drug firms remain committed in developing new drugs

By Charles E. Buban

DESPITE THE STIFF COMPETITION from generic drug makers, some of the world's leading research-based pharmaceutical and healthcare companies are assuring the public that they will go on developing lifesaving medicines for

some of the world's biggest fullers. Representatives from Pfizer Inc., GlaxoSmithKline (GSK) and Merck Sharp & Dohme (MSD) said during a recent forum in Makati City that only through long-term research and development (R&D) would they be able to ensure the public that the medicines that reach the market are effective and safe.

A large number of the 1,000 medicines currently in development will fail in clinical trials and bringing medicines to patients will require, on average, 10 to 15 years of testing and review by regulatory authorities. But the pharmaceutical companies said they would continue with their R&D because some of these drugs may represent tomorrow's breakthroughs to cure or preyent disease, reduce disability and improve one's quality of life.

"The cost of developing a medicine is offset by the enormous value it brings to patients, to society, to the healthcare system and to the savings it generates," said Pfizer corporate affairs director picture and also consider the more im-

Karen Villanueva.

Villanueva said major healthcare companies spend \$800 million to \$1.7 billion in bringing a new medicine to the market.

Product credibility

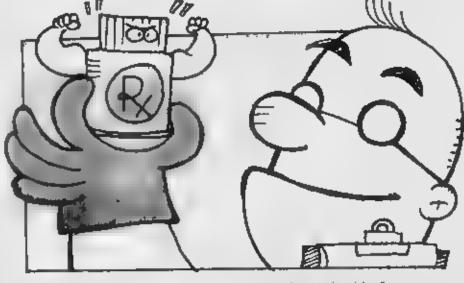
Without R&D, the public cannot be sure that the medicines it takes are manufactured according to right standards or have been proven effective and safe, said Noel Isberto, GSK semor vice president for corporate affairs.

"Long and conscientious R&D processes lend an enormous amount of credibility to any product and this is critical when it comes to medicines, as with any other product designed to save lives. Without the brand, and the quality R&D associated with the brand, one will have no basis for evaluating the medicine," he said.

But because of economic difficulties, patients tend to focus too much on the cost of medicines rather than the cost of

According to MSD medical director Dr. Cesar Recto it is important for patients to know that not all medicines are created equal and that choosing lower-priced medicines not backed up by R&D could prove more costly in the long run.

"Although the cost of medicine is an important issue especially in these difficult times, we should look at the bigger



portant issue, which is the cost of disease," he said.

Better compliance

Villanueva said taking medicines that safely and effectively treat high cholesterol levels, for example, may spare a patient the risk of having to undergo a costly bypass surgery or a poststroke rehabilitanon therapy.

Another example is the convenience of taking short-course, antibiotic treatment, which may be more effective in treating infections as it encourages compliance,

thus reducing the risk of recurrence and relapse and antibione resistance.

Recto said well-researched medicines have a higher chance of providing better protection against potential health complications that may lead to hospitalization, absence from work, and poor quality of life, factors that could drain one's financial resources in the long run.

"If patients take medicines that don't do what they're supposed to do, they run the risk of getting more sick later on and spending more money on additional treatment," Recto said.

How to stay healthy and young

■ ATING LIVE FOODS (OR those that contain active ■ enzymes needed by the body like fresh fruits and vegetables and slightly cooked meals), regular exercise, positive thinking and keeping the mind and body busy at all times are among the tips given by Mariandy A. Fricke in her recently launched book titled "A Gift of Health."

Fricke, who is based in Germany, flew in recently to launch the book in Maiate, Manila. The book essentially promotes holistic hearth and healing of the mind, body and sparit.

"Absorb the holistic concept and check your lifestyle. Every day, think of positive inputs to the mental-spiritual, physical and chemical aspects of your life," Fricke

Surround yourself with people with a positive attitude and a healthy lifestyle. "We have to create mutually beneficial relationships with friends, family and colleagues who care about us," she said.

Physical health

"Share your fitness goals with some one who will encourage you to be consistent with your program. Better yet, exercise with a friend. It always helps to have

up to it," Fricke added.

There is no substitute for good old exercise to be healthy and fit. "A healthy body needs a strong heart and lungs, which are achieved through cardiovascular activity (aerobic exercises) like waiking, jogging, swimming, dancing, biking or doing the house chores," Fricke

One way to prevent deterioration of entropy is giving the body something to do. In physics, entropy is counteracted by work, defined as the orderly application of energy. Without work, energy dissipates, Fricke stressed.

According to her, people who are sedentary have a higher risk for depression, disease and early death than those who are active. For this reason, Walter Bortz, a senior Stanford physician specializing in aging, has coined the term "disuse syndrome" to describe how the body suffers ill health and premature aging due to negligence in physical activity.

Spiritual health

Alongside physical health is spiritual health, an aspect so often overlooked, which means being intimately connected to give one innate joy and satisfaction. This means being connected with spouse, partner, family, friends and com-

Through a harmonious relationship

someone push you when you don't feel with people in your life, you learn to give and receive unconditional love," Fricke.

> "A mind filled with guilt, fear or negative feelings is disturbed and can affect all physiological and biological processes of the body," she stressed.

On nutrition, Fricke suggested eating "hve" foods or those filled with enzymes needed by the body such as fruits and vegetables, nutritions fruit drinks and avoiding artificial food like sugar, starch, fat and alcoholic beverages. "Substitute those large portions of meat with other protein sources like soya beans and nuts," she said.

Avoid the top 10 toxins. These are sugar, white flour and refined carbohydrates, dairy products, red meat, food additives, caffeine, nicotine, alcohol, drugs and environmental toxins.

Other tips

Her other tips include:

· Analyze yourself. Find support to keep you motivated. Heal your pains and heartaches. Find out what keeps you from feeling good about yourself and work at removing these blocks

· Plan your daily activities and the workouts and keep track of your progress in a diary or calendar to keep you motivated

 Add variety to your daily physical and mental activities. This keeps you

from being bored.

 Visualize yourself. What image would you like to achieve? Meditate on this image every day to speed up your

 Do something that makes you happy outside of the program, like dancing, singing or a hobby. Make time for this on a regular basis.

· Take time to recharge by communing with nature. Take a walk in the park, go mountain climbing or go to the beach to reconnect with Mother Earth. Life in the city can prevent us from living a balanced life. Spending time with nature helps restore the balance and deep-

ens our connection with the spirit.

 Spending time near water can be spiritually reinvigorating because water has a high concentration of negative ions that recharge our whole system. Swimming in the ocean, lakes or rivers is a good way to absorb this life enhancing energy. Soaking yourself in a mineral hot spring also has therapeutic benefits.

 Of all natural elements, perhaps the closest expression of the spirit is air. Clean, fresh air is essential to health on all levels. That is why, as long as the weather permits, you must always keep the windows or doors open when doing

BFAD approves entecavir for treatment of chronic hepatitis B

BRISTOL-MYERS SQUIBB HAS in the first quarter of this year. announced that the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) has approved entecavir for the treat ment of chronic hepatitis B virus infection

The indication is in adults with evidence of active viral replication and either evidence of persistent elevations in serum aminotransferases (ALT or AST) or histologically active disease

Entecavir is an oral antiviral therapy specifically designed to block the replication of hepatitis B virus (HBV) in the liver. The drug will be available in the Philippines

Life-threatening disease

Chronic hepatitis B infection is a potentially life-threatening disease. More than half a million people worldwide die each year from primary liver cancer (hepatocedular carcinoma), and up to 80 percent of primary liver cancers are caused by chronic hepati-

The prevalence rate of chronic hepatitis B in the country ranges from 5 to 16 percent, placing the Philippines in the intermediateto-high endemic region. More

than half (59 percent) of the patients with cirrhosis and 82 percent of patients with liver cancer in the Philippines are caused by hepatitis B infection. Primary liver cancer is the most common gastrointestinal cancer and third most common cancer in the

"With the approval of entecavir in the Philippines, Bristol-Myers Squibb will now be able to address another area of significant unmet medical need hepatitis B," said David Elsaputra, general manager, Bristol-Myers Squibb Philippines Inc.

Important step forward

"Developed in our own laboratories, entecavir is an important step forward for patients and our company, as we seek to realize our mission of extending and enhancing human life by focusing on discovering, developing and providing innovative treatments for serious diseases," Elsaputra said.

The Asian-Pacific consensus statement on the management of chronic hepatitis B. a 2005 update, states that sustained viral suppression is the key to reduction or prevention of hepatic injury and disease progression and

chronic hepatitis B is to eliminate or permanently suppress the hepanns B vīral ioad

Viral load is a key predictor of progression to serious liver disease and hepatocellular carcinoma (HCC or liver cancer). The higher the viral load the greater the risk of developing circhosis and HCC

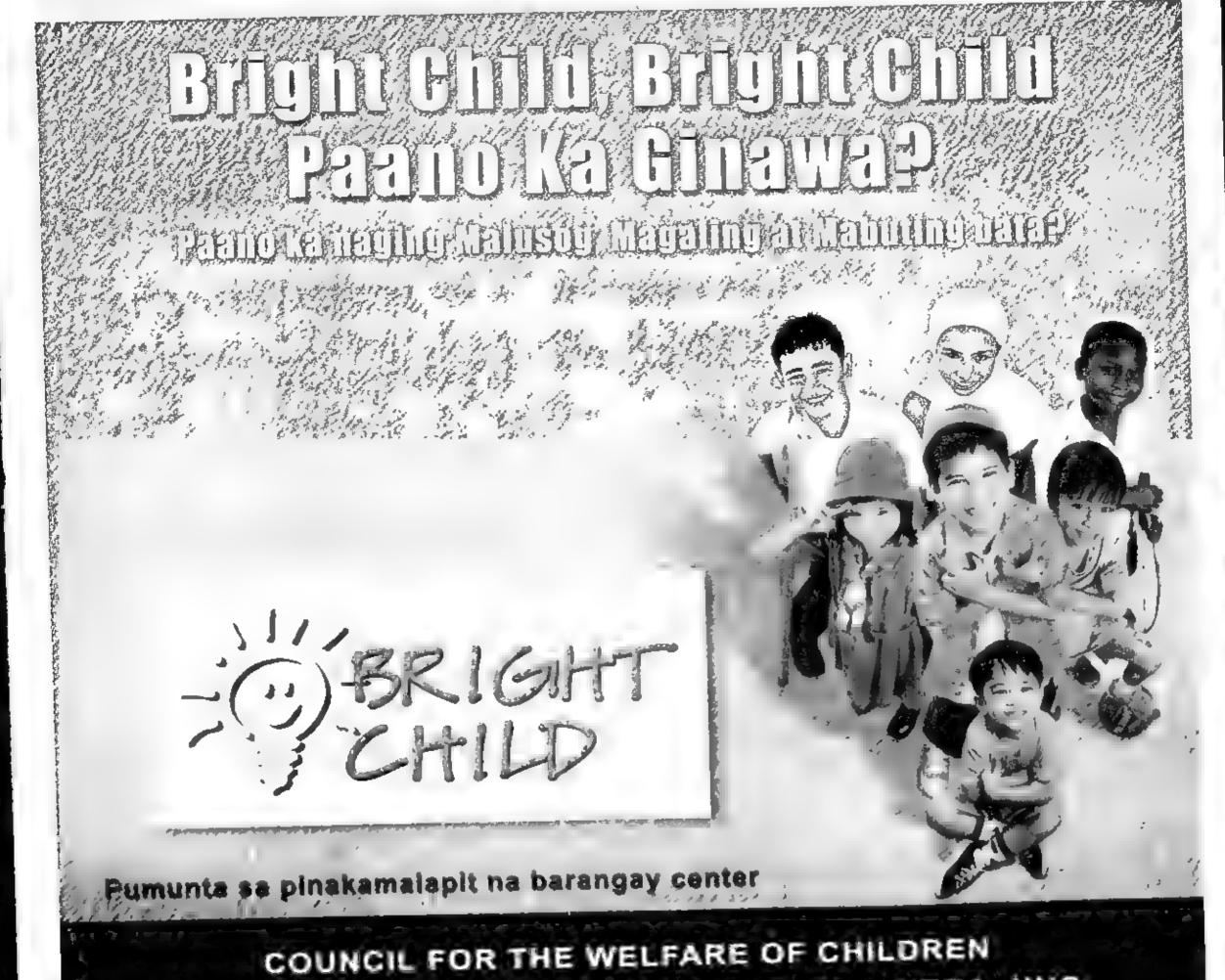
Important new medication

With the approval of entecavit, physicians have an important new medication to treat chrome hepatitis B by reducing the viral load

the primary goal of treatment for and the associated risk of developing cirrhosis and liver cancer.

Discovered at Bristol Myers Squibb, entecavir is a nucleoside analogue, approved for marketing in the United States by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) on March 29

To date, entecavir has also been approved in several countries including China, Macau and Indonesia Bristol-Myers Squibb has submitted marketing applications for entecavir in other regions and countries around the world, including Talwan, Korea and Hong Kong



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Peacefully joined our Lord on January 11, 2006. He was 65.

Resty's wife Ma. Linda; children Ma. Reslinda and Rey, Ress, Ma. Reneé and lan; Resti and Marta Cecilia, Ma. Rhida and Ma. Rae; grandchildren Mica, Raji and Matty, brothers and sisters Marcelino, Humberto, Leanarda, Agatona, Felicitas and Beata; relatives and friends request readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

Resty's remains are at the Loyola Memorial Park in Marikina City.

A mass will be held at 3:00 p.m. on January 15, 2006 at Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina. Interment follows.



Peacefully joined our Lord on January 12, 2006 at the age of 49.

Her daughter Abigail, brothers Marco and Norman; sisters Linda and Marlene, bestfriend Vicky; other relatives and friends request the readers to join them in praying for her eternal happiness in Heaven.

Her body lies in state at the La Funeraria Paz, Sucat, Paramaque City

Cremation will take place at Manila Memorial Park Crematory after the 9 00 a m. service on Tuesday, January 17, 2006.

In lieu of flowers, donations for the social welfare activities would be greatly appreciated.



ay mapayapang namatay noong ika 13 ng Enero 2006 sa gulang na 96.

Ang kanyang anginiuksang mga Anak na si RUBEN at MANDY, DANTE at LORRIE, BABY, ROMY at VIOLY, label on mga APO at mga KAPATID BE IS NARDING BE DINOY, BY nakikusap no myong ipogdosal para sa kapayapana ng kamyang kaluluwa.

Ang kanyang labi ay makaburol sa NATTONAL SHRINE OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS 24 maintagpuan sa Deeng Den, Berangay Sen Antonio. Lungsod og Makati

Ang libing ay saka sa ipopealam



"It matters not how strait the gate How charged with punishment the scroll I am the Master of my Fate I am the Captain of my soul."



CRESENCIO PAMINTUAN GARCIA

April 19, 1918 - January 12, 2006

We, his bereaved family:

Wife: Elisa Flores

Children: Zenaida, Angelita, Edgardo, Yolanda, Eleanor, Cristina Brothers: Goido, Florentino, Cecilio

In-laws and Grandchildren

request relatives and friends to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the chapel of the Good Shepherd Memorial Park, Dolores, City of San Fernando, Pampanga. Interment will be on January 15, 2006, Sunday, after the 1:30 p.m. Holy Mass.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."

- John 3 !6

There is an appointed time for everything, and a time for every affair under kenren.

In Memory of our Beloved GILBERT FABELLA Y MUYO

CPA-LAWYER PRACTITIONER

His children: Fulbert and Bernadette, Marin Lanifee and Yesuhiro, Victorino Genise and Liza: grandchildren: Victorius, à baria Keiko and Jose Hiroya. Vic Angelo. Vic Angeline. Vic Andrew and Victoria Genise; brothers and sesters, academ, naces, relatives, friends and clients requisit the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul His remeats he in state at Loyola Memorial Chapels & Crematorium, Edsa corner Bernarumo St., Guadalape Viejo, Makati City

Interment will be colebrated in Calabraya, Ro January 36, 2006.

CLASSHIEDS ...

Call centers to generate more jobs

LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT SECRETARY Patricia A. Sto. Tomas sees bright prospects in employment in 2006 with the call center industry expected to expand and gene rate more jobs for the Filipino workers.

in a radio interview, Sto. Tomas said positive developments locally and overseas indicate that the demand for skilled Filipino workers would be sustained this year

She said that in the local industry, the highest number of jobs being recorded is in the call center area. She disclosed that at the start of the year, the DOLE has received a request for about 7,500 people to man call center seats.

The past years saw an unprecedented growth in call center jobs as more and more business process outsourcing firms set up their operations in the Philippines each year. The Bureau of Investments estimated that there are now about 112,000 people working in call centers in the country which brought in more than \$1 billion in revenues in 2005. This was a sharp increase from 2000 when call centers employed just 2,400 people and earned only

In the next four years, the country is targeting to capture about five percent of the global business process outsourcing amounting to as much as \$10 billion

Sto. Tomas, however, said that there have been difficulties in filling up call center seats because the number of English language proficient workers in the country is waning. Out of every 100 applicants, she said that only about five to 10 people are accepted, indicating an acceptance rate of only 5 to 10 percent.

The DOLE chief said that part of the problem could be a cultural thing. "I think we have people who do fairly well in written English but not very well in conversational English. Filipinos have the tendency not to correct wrong use of English in conversation as this would embarrass people," she said.

To address the problem and, thus, sustain the competitiveness of the country's call center industry, Sto. Tomas said that the DOLE and its attached agency, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), would meet with the Department of Education and the Commission on Higher Education next month.

The objective of the inter-agency meeting, she said, is to come up with a plan of action that would enable more Pilipino workers to meet the call centers' urgent need for language proficient staff.

Republic of the Philippines Municipality of Placer Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP)

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Date: January 14, 2006 Loan No. 4299-PH IFB NO. SFF-IPB-02-2005

- The Government of the Republic of the Philippines (through the Department of Finance (DOF) has received a loan from the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) in various currencies towards the financing of Community-Based Resource Management Project (CBRMP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of this loan will be applied to eligible payments under the contract for supply and installation of ice Plant and Machineries.
- The Municipality of Placer now invites sealed bids from eligible bidders for the supply and installation of ice Plant and Machineries.
- For the purpose of this bidding, eligible bidders shall be those who have experience in the supply and installation of Ice Plant and Machineries to remote areas in the Philippines.
- Interested eligible bidders may purchase or inspect the bidding documents at or obtain further information from the Office of BAC Chairman, Municipal Hall, Placer, Surigao del Norte
- 5. A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested bidders starting January 16, 2006-February 13, 2006 upon submission of letter of intent to the above and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee of Seven Thousand Five Hundred Pesos (Php7,500.00).
- The provisions in the instructions to Bidders and in the General Conditions of Contract are the provisions of the World Bank Standard Bidding Documents: Procurement of Goods.
- 7. Bids must be delivered to the BAC Chairman, Musicipality of Placer, on or before 2:00 p.m. on February 13, 2006 and must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php300,000.00) in the form of Benk Guarantee.
- Bids will be opened in the presence of bidders' representatives who choose to attend on February 13, 2006; 2:00 p.m. at BAC Chairman, Municipality of Placer
- Prior to bid opening, a pre-bid conference will be held on January 31, 2006; 2:00 p.m., at the address indicated in paragraph 8.

(Sgd.) MRS. EMERITA P. ELEJAS Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

Sto. Tomas also said that the demand for technical and vocational jobs would be sustained. Aside from call center positions, the other jobs that are in great demand are technical-vocational jobs such as automotive painters, mechanics, electricians, and technicians, she

Overseas, Sto. Tomas said that there is a continuing demand for nurses, seafarers, engineers, waiters and other hotel and restaurant positions, and technical and vocational workers as well.

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- C The following eligibility requirement in two copies, duty certified must be submitted to the Procurement Department at 18th Floor Citibank Tower, 8741 Paseo De Roxas Avenue, Bel-Air, Makati City, to form the basis for evaluation and assessment for pre-qualification of bidders.
 - 1. SEC/DTI Registration Papers
 - 2. 2006 Business Permits/Licenses
 - 3. Income Tax Return for the last two (2) years (2003 & 2004) with accompanying Audited Financial Statements marked "RECEIVED" by BIR.
 - 4. Company Profile
 - 5. Complete listing of partners or foreign agents worldwide.
 - 6. Copy of both local and international Forwarding and Brokerage licenses and accreditation, including the latest annual reports submitted to respective
 - 7. List of clients (past & present) especially in the power plant or related industries, with the corresponding summary of all importations.
 - List of company equipment and other assets. 9. A comprehensive Service Plan on how to handle our shipments in the event
 - of contract award.
 - DETAILED SCOPE OF WORK AND COUNTRY OF ORIGINS WILL BE
 - PROVIDED IN THE COMMERCIAL BID DOCUMENTS ONLY ELIGIBLE BIDDERS WILL BE ISSUED WITH THE BID DOCUMENTS AND ALLOWED TO PARTICIPATE IN THE BIDDING.
 - Deadline for submission: January 20, 2006
- E. Pre-bidding and bidding schedules shall be announced to all eligible bidders.
- Kepco Philippines Corporation and Kepco tiljan Corporation reserves the right to review the qualifications of all selected bidders subject to technical and financial criteria, reject any or all bids, waive any formality or defect therein and accept the offer considered to be the most advantageous to the company.
- G. For further particulars, please inquire from Mr. Dal Hun Lee, Procurement Manager, anytime during office hours at the above mentioned address or call Tel. No. 848-0231 (loc. 152) or send fax to 848-0013 to 14.

KWAN HWAI HUR General Manager Admin. & Planning Group

[PDI-Jacuary 14, 2008]

More employment opportunities in today's JOB MARKET

TECHNOLOGY

Measures sought for LPG facilities

By Abigail L. Ho

GOVERNMENT OFFICIALS AND oil industry players are currently working on safety standards that will govern the establishment of retail outlets for liquefied petroleum gas, chiefly used as fuel for cooking and transporta-

Oil Industry Technical Working Group is the Department of Energy. The agency is working closely with the Department of Trade and Industry's Bureau of Product three months." Standards, and the Department ment's Bureau of Fire Protection, in formulating the standards.

On the private sector side, partimpents include members of the anter." Philippine Independent Petroleum Companies Association (lppca) and the Philippine Petroleum Institute.

The group held its first meetpants set a three-month timeframe for completing the stan-

bureau director Zenaida Monsa-

da said that by April, the group would already have come out with at least a draft of the safety measures that operators of LPG autogas refilling stations would have to follow.

"LPG is highly combustible, so we have to set stringent standards for refilling stations," Monsada told the Inquirer. "This type Leading the Joint Government of fuel can't be placed just anywhere, handled by just anyone and with no clear set of safety procedures. That's why we have to come out with our draft in

Ippca chair and Eastern of Interior and Local Govern- Petroleum Corp. president Pernando Martinez said the use of LPG autogas could reduce "motorists' gasoline billis by at least P8

Earlier, he said that Eastern Petroleum would be putting up "energy stations," which would sell alternative fuels such as cocobiodiesel, ethanol-blended gasoing on Thursday, where partici- line and LPG autogas, alongside traditional fuels such as gasoline, diesei and kerosene.

In the longer term, he said LPG DOE oil industry management autogas should account for the bulk of the oil firm's fuel sales.



NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF CONTAMINATED BUNKER-C AND WASTE OIL

"AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BEDOING January 16, 2005, 2:00 PM, Solarium Hall, Bidg. 1 Grd. Floor MPC-HO, Agham Road corner Curazim Ave., Diliman, Quezon City

The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the contaminated Bunker-C and located Power Barge 106, Keppel Shipyard, Bauan, Balangas.

Rem Description and Location

Minimum Bkt Price Contaminated Bunker-C and waste oil P 8.00 / War approximately 460,000 iters located at PB-106,

Keppel Shipyard Baum, Batangas finierested parties who wish to secure bid form for the above items must be

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ALL BIDS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING.

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Interested parties who wish to participate in the public bidding may secure the bid form at P550 00/set from Mr. SAMUEL V. LOMUNTAD. Adding Manager. Warehousing, Inventory. Trailic and Asset Disposal Division (WITADD) at Bidg. 1, Ground Floor. NPC Head Office, Corner Agham Road and Quezon Avenue, Dilbrian, Q.C. or call telephone. no. 922-8431. Deactine for assuance of bid form is 4:30 PM January 17, 2006.

For the Materials Management Department (Sgd.) ATTY, CATHER, NE J. PABLO Officer-In-Charge

(PD) - January St. 14 & 15, 2006)

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A jewel in Makati's skyline: The Shang Grand Tower opens its doors



Exactly two years and four months following its sales launch, the 46-storey The Shang doors to its new residents.

corners of Dela Rosa, Perca and Nieva Streets in Legaspi Village in Makati City, The Shang Grand huxury residential condominium project of Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts' Knok Group, continues to awe pedestrians and motorists with its architecture and elegant exteriors typical of a Kuok development.

Aside from enjoying their Shangri-La tradition,

residents can enjoy Tower's Amenities Floor on Grand (one each for the adults and The Enterprise Center on St anding majestically at the children) in a lush tropical setting, a gym and aerobics center, a multi- purpose room, a room function Tower, the first self- funded fully-equipped indoor kiddle play area.

They hotel-linked services including but not limited to laundry and dry cleaning, outside catering, transportation service Makati Shangri-La Hotel.

The management and staff of posh and spacious units built in the EDSA Properties Holdings Management Inc,-Property

the Group (EPHI-PMG), will ensure Ayala Avenue, facilities at The Shang Grand 5-star services for the The Shang Tower's Grand Tower has opened its Level 5: two swimming pools Currently, EPHI-PMG manages

For more information, please residents. call 811-1819 or 811-0556 or visit www.theshanggrandtower.com



Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

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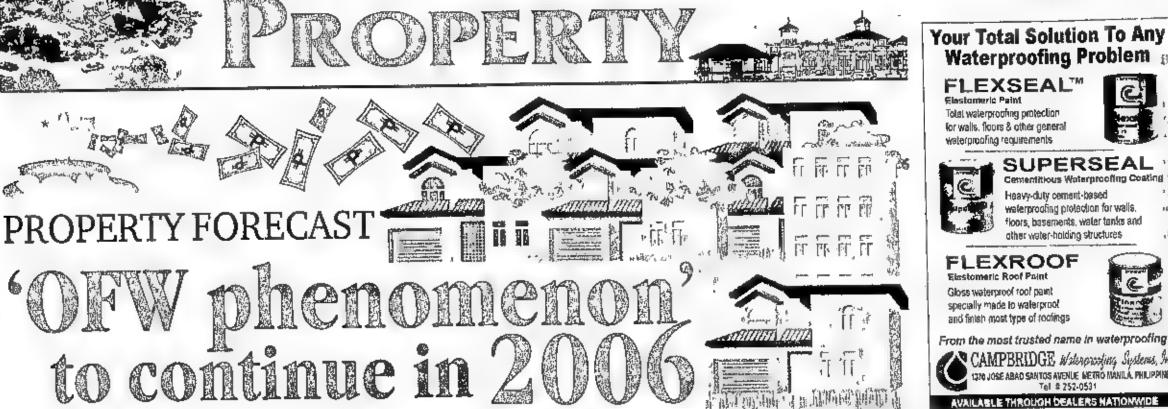
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By Tessa R. Salazar

ILL OVERSEAS Filipmo workers' investments in their home country continue to rise or slacken this year?

Optimistic developers and reaestate firms believe more money from OFWs will be pouring in.

Eric Soriano, ERA Philippines country president and CEO, said nome mortgage investments develop "discipline" in the form of forced savings on OFW dependents.

"Our studies have shown that there is a 92 percent repayment of monthly amortizations among OFW homebuyers, a positive andicator for the industry." Sonano

"I believe the teeberg for OPW markets is very deep," he added.

Top priorities

According to him, statistics have shown that education and rea, estate are still top priorities for any OFW provider Reinforcing OFW remittances are new money coming from balkbayans from North America and Europe.

Marivic Añonuevo, vice president and head of Ayala Land Inc.'s leisure and lifestyle communities, said the number of Fiapinos leaving the Philippines to work abroad continues to grow at around 12.5

"Although this is really a sad phenomenon, this indicates however that the amount of dollars Advice to developers earned and remitted back home continues to grow Rather than slacking off, therefore, we in ALL feel that we have only mined what we believe is the tip of the large OFW market."

Danilo E. Ignacio, general manager of Robinsons Land Corp.—high rise building division, said RLC is confident that the OFW investments in real estate will remain.

Owning their home

Jose EB Antonio, chair of Centu. ry Properties Group and Meridien Development Group, said that 30 percent of the income of OFWs in general is spent on housing, whether to buy a new home, fix present homes or pay for rent

"The quest for the Filipmo dream of owning their home is foremost in the minds of OFWs. It is also worthwhile to note that the average income of an OFW has increased, as more white cottar workers and technical people are working abroad," Antomo said.

Soriano observed that historically, spikes in OFW remittances occur every middle and end of the year

"However, with the continuous deployment of new OFWs in exist ing and new geographical markets and the increase in remittance month on month, we can expect a steady stream of real estate business from the sector al. throughout the year," he said

Añonuevo estimated that ALI overseas sales accounted for nearly 20 to 25 percent of the total sales volume generated by the ALI parent company, including subsidiaries such as Community Innovations Inc and LPHI. She added that recognizing this large potennal, ALI has established Ayala Land International Sales Inc.

Ignacio said that RLC markets selected projects internationally. *Revenues generated from our m ternational marketing efforts account for a substantial portion of our sales. We thus intend to pursue

ERA Rea. Estate, a mulunationa. real estate service provider that manages Eastwood, expects to grow its OFW portfono from 15 percent in 2005 to 25 percent this

"The industry posted an average OFW contribution of 20 to 25 percent. My advice to developers is for them to focus on increasing their OFW portfouo by an additional 15 percent this year," Soriano said.

building this segment," he said.

Cultural center resembles villages where Kanak tribes live BUILT TO HONOR NEW CALE- use horizontal wood slats made doma's Kanak culture, the Jean of troko wood, a type of inde-Marie Tj.baou Cultura. Center structible wood that not only can

as its Italian architect, the famous Renzo Piano. The center resembles the vii- These glass louvers allow the

lages in which the Kanak tribes live. AMAZING it is composed of 10 "great houses," STRUCTURES

each with a different size and function. A long, gendy curving enclosed waikway links and winds through the senes of "huts."

center's proximity to the Pacific Ocean by using a natura, system of ventilation. The outer façade of the huts which face the ocean

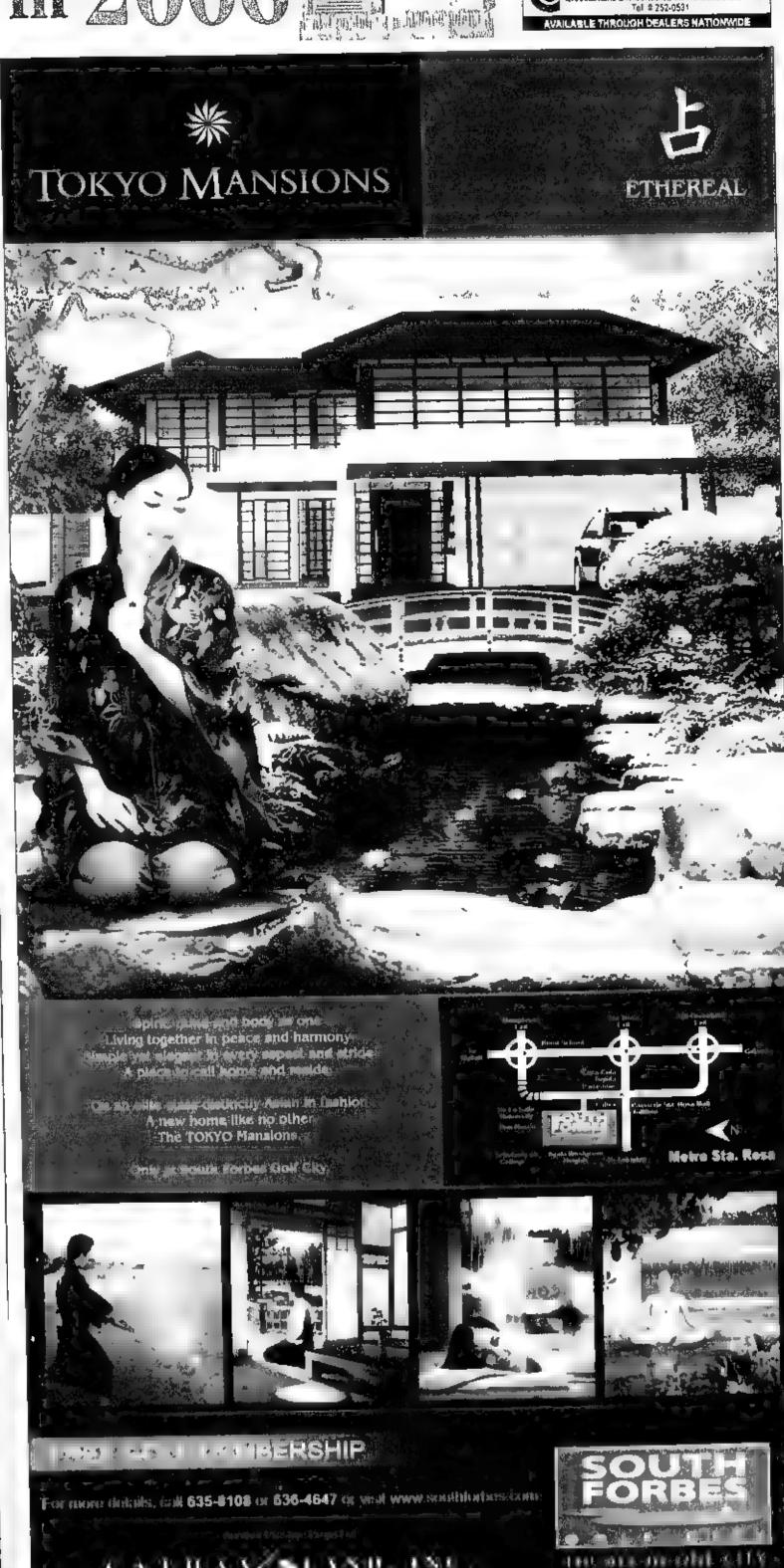
has received much admiration withstand cyclone-force winds but also fitter the wind into an in ner façade made of giass louvers,

> wind to flow freely through the building for ventilation by opening and closing depending

on wind speed The Jean Marie Tjibaou Cultural Center was named after Jean Mane Tjibaou, philosopher Piano took advantage of the and former leader of the Kanak Socialist Liberation Front who

was assassinated in New Caledomain 1989 Dianne M. Villafuerte





PROPERTY

Green architecture and crime prevention

WHAT'S THE FIRST WORD THAT comes to mind when you hear "crime brevention"? Naturally, it's the police or scurity guard. Few people realize however that architects and other designers are in large part also responsible for the ecurity of many homes and offices. This s a major concern of green architecture, newly revived discipline that protects ite environment while improving the uality of life and promoting sustainable ievelopment.

Green architecture can lead to a reducson in the incidence of crime. It can also belp reduce vandalism and other forms of property destruction. Buildings that are improperly designed are easily vandalized and destroyed, needing more replacement materials, resources and energy that further deplete precious reserves

In some communities, as crime and vandalism escalate, the buildings and the dominunity in general become unhealthy places for people to live and work. As a resuit, people move out to safer areas leaving behind buildings that continue to detenorate. Through green architecture most of these concerns will be minimized or

After all, green buildings are designed for longevity and ease in maintenance. They are also healthy buildings that conexpute to the well being of the community.

How green architecture helps

The way houses and buildings are designed, and just as important, how they afe built in relation to each other, play a major role in making communities safe and secure. For example, in urban areas, many green planners and developers now realize the benefits of having a healthy mix of buildings with different uses in the same area. This means residential buildings integrated with commercial buildings in a mixed zone. This type of planning encourages 24-hour



activities seven days a week as people move in and out of offices, coffee shops, boutiques, convenience stores, etc. This is in contrast to deserted, unsafe places within office building districts that are normally abandoned after office hours. In many cases these buildings have blank or windowless walls on the

To make buildings and communities really secure, however, it will take more than just proper site planning to do the job. Green architectural design and landscaping together with crime prevention strategies must be adopted at the early stages of the design process.

Increased visibility

The first element involves designing to increase visibility. It has been proven that criminals are not likely to act when they know that their actions will be witnessed. For example, in business establishments, keeping windows free of advertising posters and ads allows people to observe what is going on inside business establishments. Through careful design this will make it easy to spot a criminal at work. Similarly, residential homes with tall concrete fences are at higher risk from intruders, it is safer to use a combination of concrete and wrought fron grills in fences for

For buildings it is advisable to use open type stairways to allow users to be seen and be heard in case assistance is needed

in parks and big open spaces, shesters and observation decks should overlook

trail paths to allow park visitors to see and

A favorite spot for crimmals to hide are overgrown trees and shrubs. These areas must be maintained regularly.

In some cases, the best way to secure a place is through the use of devices such as closed-circuit television, guard posts and security patrols.

Control of movement

The second element involves directing the movement or path of people as they enter and exit buildings. By properly locating entrance doors, fences, landscaping and lighting, people will not wander into restricted areas and more important, it will convey a perception of risk to an intruder.

This can be done by using fencing material or landscaping to prevent or discourage entrance into nonsecured areas. Another way is by limiting the number of entry points in a building.

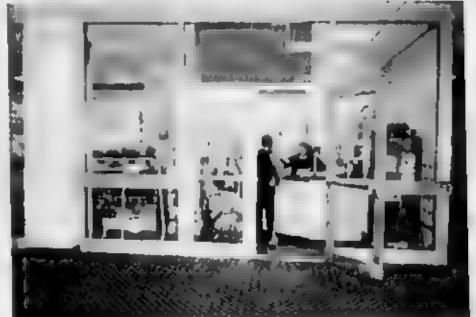
An effective way to control the movement of people within premises is by using locking mechanisms such as a double cylinder deadbolt or electronic security card system.

Boundary definition

The third element involves the use of site features that help define ownership like fences, sidewalks and landscaping. In large housing communities, fences help control access to the site and define property lines. Other features could be signboards that show the name of the business Parking areas can also provide signs of ownership.

Landscaping can also be used as a natural divider separating open and restricted areas. Driveways can be finished with colorful tiles to set them off visually from the

The idea is not always to provide physical barriers but instead to define boundaries and tell intruders that the efited from the bright lights of conve-



IN THIS store, the uncluttured windows allow the cashler to be seen from the outside, thus discouraging criminals from robbing the place.

property is off limits to trespassers

Maintenance

Overgrown shrubs and weeds clearly show that there is no one in the property to maintain the area and this could send signais to criminals to burglarize the place. Another telltale sign is old nonoperating vehicles that are permanently parked in the garage or roadside.

On the other hand, a clean building with a well-maintained landscape without trash strewn around the site help make people feel safe.

It is advisable to plant shrubs that do not grow taller than three feet. Use low-maintenance building materials for the construction of the buildings.

Good lighting is a very effective crime deterrent. Many areas in the city have ben-

nience stores that have sprouted all over the metropolis in recent years. In several places, they have reduced criminality and

Security lights that automatically turn on at night and off at dawn are effective devices that help prevent crime around homes and buildings. It is also advisable to use long-life energy-efficient lamps for easy maintenance.

Green architecture alone will not be enough to reduce crime. It will take a lot of effort, resources and the collective will of the government and members of the community before crime can be effectively reduced However, we can start right now, by designing our buildings and communities with crime preventive green measures.

For comments or inquiries, e-mail amadode)esus@gmail.com.



WITH YOUR free South Forbes golf membership, you also get a privilege to play in 42 golf

Ready, jet set, golf!

A CONSIDERABLE NUMBER OF GOLFERS love playing in different courses to conduct a personal tour of sorts. After all, each course proposes different challenges to their game The layout, type of grass, distances between holes and the site's elevation all affect playa-pility and the fun aspect of the golf game. Most important is the elevation, since a flat terrain is much easier to play than a hilly or mountainous site. These elite golfers regularly fly to both local and foreign courses to hone their game.

in the same manner, non-golfers also love touring different hotels and resorts. Each exciting locale, beach or spa offers a different amblance and set of amenities for one's enjoyment. Meditation areas, unique massage and skin treatments as well as yoga sessions are offered to snothe the mind.

42 golf courses worldwide

With your free golf membership at the 18hole, all-weather, world-class South Forbes Golf and Leisure Club, you can soon gain preferred access and discounted rates in 42 top-caliber golf courses worldwide through the exclusive golf club of IMG Sports Club.

Golfers will score a hole-in-one 42 times with discounted green and other fees in golf courses across four continents. Imagine putting for a birdie at the Nirwana Bali Golf Club of the tropical paradise of Bali in Asia. Or score an eagle at the Moonah Links in Melbourne, Australia. Post another hole-in-one at the Golf and Country Club Fleesensee in Europe. Better yet, win a tournament at the presugious Presidio Golf Course in San Francisco, North America

Surely, this is one opportunity not to be missed for those aspiring to join the ranks of Tiger Woods, Phil Mickelson and Michelle Wiel As for nongolfers, there are many things in store for you as well. Depending on the locapon, each of the 42 IMG Sports Club affiliates catures top amenities such as massage services, spa, squash, tennis, banquet facilities and

restaurants Jetsetters who love traveling to the US West Coast can play golf at the Tahquitz Creek Go" Resort in Palm Springs, California, with relatives and friends. Over at the East Coast, you can play doubles tennis at The Fox Valley Club in New York. If Europe is in your innerary, it's covered as well. You can play squash at the Golf and Country Club Fleesensee while you're touring Germany.

World-class golf resort city

The free membership to the South Forbes Golf and Leisure Club and its accompanying free jetsetter privilege through IMG Sports Club can be easily obtained for every lot and condominium unit purchase at the South Porbes Golf City in Metro Sta. Rosa.

Touted as the country's first world-class fully integrated golf resort city, South Forbes fea-



IF YOU touring the US West Coast, then you can play golf at the Tahquitz Creek Golf Resort in Palm Springs, California, with your relatives and friends.



SOUTH Forbes member-residents will soon tee off at the prestigious Presidio Golf Course in San Francisco, near the famed Golden Gate Bridge.

tures distinct architectural themes. Take a pick among the Mediterranean Villas, the resort-inspired residences at Bali Mansions, and the Modern Zen sanctuaries at Tokyo Mansions, Investors can also choose a prime unit with a view of the South Porbes fairways at Golf View Terraces or experience a convenient lifestyle at the Singapore-themed Esplanade.

To know more about the jetsetting lifestyle and to conduct a personal or group tour of the prestige projects at South Forbes, call 635-8108 or 636-4647 or click www.southforbes.com.

Brittany masterplanning creates 'lifescapes'

THE PROPERTY SECTOR nowadays, masterplanning is essential for all development projects, particularly high-end residential communities in which maverick Britany Corp. specializes. In simple terms, a masterplan addresses the needs of end-users, as well as challenges and opportunities in the overall environment, by setting broad guidelines and parameters for all construction and develop-

Any work to be done as first reviewed to ensure consistency with the masterplan, which guides where facilities and structures are to be located. The second link in a sequence of processes that starts with site acquisition, masterplanning is followed by the development of infrastructures and products, marketing and sates, project completion, and finally the upkeep of the desired environment for the completed development

Successful masterplanning for a residential community results in housing, leisure, commercial and other relevant applications develintended level of quality sustained over time

"A key element of our masterplanning, perhaps the most crucial, is the vision that drives the creation and sustainability of each community," says Jing Serrano, president and GEO of Brittany. "Of course the other factors that determine the

success of masterplanning are important. These include the team of people who are involved, the physical and natura, surroundings, communication and transportation replanning and execution

Total 'lifescape'

"But first, Brittany's masterplanning starts with a vision of what living the good life can be for the residents of a community," Serrano says, "it's about being sensitive to how people want to enjoy life to the fullest. So our masterplanning sets out with a vision leading to the creation of a total "lifescape" for each community, a complete environment with architectural, spatial, emotional and psychological dimensions, which did not previously exist elsewhere, that brings a new quality of life experiences for residents, enhancing their enjoyment of living day after day."

According to her, carefully selected themes inspired by some of the world's most destred destinations oped within a timeframe, with their uniquely enrich Brittany's masterplanning, leading to well-planned communities that go one step further by creating distinctive "lifescapes" which please the senses and reward mind, body and spirit

Thematic influences

"The application of thematic influences for each communi-

ty-whether elegant Italian for Portofino, San Francisco neo-Victorian for Brittany Bay, Swiss for Cross-Winds, Caribbean for The Islands, or country Tuscan for Vita Toscana-45 quirements, and the demand for not intended to imitate the place flexibility and innovativeness in that inspired it," Serrano says "Rather, these themes are evocative, complementing the afe experiences of residents who are cultured, sophisticated and well-traveled. Brittany residents are privileged people, 'citizens of the world.'

"In the development of Brittany communities, we are also conscious of realities like shortfalls in transport and travel infrastructures in the metropolis. Therefore, access and location as to place of work or business, and facilities for education and health care, as well as other needs like shopping, leisure and recreation are important," Serrano

"Also, our masterplanning ensures that to the best extent feasible. Brittany communities are established on an economic and physical scare that ensures they are self-sustaining, self-contained in serving residents' requirements, according to the concept of each community," she adds

"Apart from vision in masterplanning. Brittany has the proven commitment, renability and resolve to deliver on the promise of each community, enabling residents to savor a 'lifescape' that is both inspired and inspiring," Serrano concludes

First Imax theater in RP raises gigantic screen

MOVIEGOERS IN MANILA ARE ONE step closer to the Imax experience. Dec. 16 was a big day for the Philippines as the screen for the upcoming San Miguel Coca-Cola Imax Theater was raised at the Mail of Asia. At exactly 21,955 meters in height, the lmax screen in this theater is by far the biggest screen in the Philippines and one of the very biggest in the

The screen raising is one of the final stages in the completion of the Imax Theater. Once it opens its doors to the public, the San Miguel Coca Cola IMAX Theater will change the way people in the Philippines experience movies. The Imax experience is the most powerful and immersive cinematic experience in the world, with images of unsurpassed size, sharpness and clarity complemented by up to 14,000 watts of multichannel digital aurround sound

largest in Asia and the world. The size and grandeur of the Imax Theater lobby will be unrivaled in the Philippines, making it the place for film launches and special big events. With the recent agreement partnering SM, San Miguel and Coca-Cola, the huge Imax Theater is planned for many upcoming product launches and special events for their customers

Renching as high as an eight-story building, the Imax screen was pulled up by hand by approximately 20 workers hanging over a railing at the top. The sheer size is overwhelming in the 635 seat Imax Theater, but movie goen can expect more than just size in this theater.

Imax's larger than life experience is made possible with a 15/70 film format, 10 times the size of regular 35 mm film, a specially designed screen Bigl

The Mall of Asia will be one of the that is slightly curved to reach beyond the audience's peripheral vision and a powerful multichannel digital surround sound system. The unique film format, projection technology, and theater design combine to make for the most immersive movie expenence

The San Miguel Coca Cola Imax Theater will show both Hollywood blockbusters converted to the Imax format using Imax DMR (digital remastering) technology, as well as original 15/70 films in both 2D and Imax 3D. Hollywood blockbusters transformed into Imax's format for 2006 include the new "Poseidon," "Superman Returns," "Happy Feet" (in Imax 3D only at the San Miguel Coca Cola Imax Theater) and "Ant Buily" (also in Imax 3D).

A slogan for Imax is Think Big. In Manda, it's going to be Think Really

Developers: Buyers immune to political noises

By Tessa R. Salazar

ICK AND TIRED OF OF NONstop political bickering in the country? There's a sector that doesn't seem to mind the political cir-

Top real estate developers and consulting firms say that the Philippines remains an attractive investment option despite political "noises."

Says ERA Philippines country president and CEO Eric Soriano "We have been immune to the perennial politicai noise. As long as the dynamics in the political structure are done in a peaceful and democratic way, it will not be a handrance to the real estate

ERA Philippines is a real estate consulting firm whose parent company is based in Singapore. Its local clientele includes Megaworld Proper-

Marivic Afionuevo, vice president and head of Ayala Land Inc.'s leisure and lifestyle communities, agrees with the observation. She says that as ALI's 2005 performance proves, the buying public has largely discounted the political climate

Añonuevo says the' while there was an initial hesitation to invest in fixed assets because of the perceived polincal volatility, the public has learned to "live with the noise as they move on with their lives."

"There is real growth in demand in the OFW market but we have also seen that the local market is also getting back its confidence in investing in real estate as evidenced by our very good sales performance in 2005 despite the political noises in the back-

ground," she says. Afionuevo adds that with the opening up of the country's economy to globalization, ALI believes that foreign capital, not just from OFWs but

Philippine real estate as an attractive

privestment.

Danilo E. Ignacio, general manager for Robinsons Land Corp.'s high-rise buildings division, says political turmoll has been a "mainstay in the Philippines," adding that through the years Robinsons Land has weathered a number of political issues that had beset the country.

He adds that the housing demand "remains real and sustains the indus-

'In recent months, the overall public sobriety toward new controversies has served to sustain the sales performance of most developers," Ignacio

Strengthening of the peso

Aftonuevo believes that for local buyers, the strengthening of the peso, plus T-bill rates going down would mean lower loan interest rates which, she says, would "make it very attractive to pursue real estate loans."

"It's not just the favorable exchange rate but also the fact that a more liberal finance environment enables innovation in supporting financial instruments," Añonuevo says. She cites the soon-to-be launched exchangeable bonds, which, she says, is one way by which ALI is inventing new instruments to enable more segments of the market to purchase ALI-quality properties.

ignacio says that in a strong peso environment, OFWs tend to defer purchasing as their dollars have relatively less purchasing power

"The opposite is true for local buyers, though, who tend to invest when the peso is strong. This complementary economic dynamics provides developers with sustainable and regular sources of sales," he says

Ignacio adds that insofar as developers are concerned, a strong peso also from interested entities, will see may help lower construction costs, to upper-income levels.

which may translate to more affordable products for buyers.

Soriano forecasts that at first, the appreciating peso may tend not to favor the OFW sector as they would be getting fewer pesos from their dollar

"However, the price of consumer goods will mevitably go down due to a stronger peso, translating into more savings on the part of the OFW families to buy real estate," he

Jose E.B. Antonio, chair of Century Properties Group and Meridien Development Group, meanwhile, says it is important to note that the Philippine real estate market cycle was reversed in 2004, ending a seven-year drop in prices and volume of transac-

"The market is now in positive territory and is very buoyant. Most Grade A developers experienced a 200 percent increase in volume of transactions in 2005 over 2004," he

Antomo adds that most of the development projects are in the residential sector and are focused on middle-





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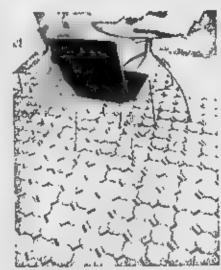
MGS porous, pervious pavers ideal for surface drainage

A LINE OF INNOVATIVE AND COSTeffective products to address the common problem of water drainage in 12 outdoor areas is now available from MGS Corp., one of the country's leading providers of integrated construction materials and services that include ready-mix concrete, premium homebuilding products, housing construction, land development, trading and distribution

MGS offers pervious and porous pavers-the first to be made locally, with licensed technology from the Besser Co. in the United States-for economical solutions to surface dramage that also open up opportunities for creating visually pleasing designs, Since rainfall in the Philippines is often a year-round phenomenon, these pervious and porous pavers are finding great relevance and utility among architects, landscapers, homeowners and other endusers who are concerned about maximizing the usability of outdoor spaces.

Porous pavers

Phileonstruct in November 2005, the porous pavers have a composition similar to dried and hardened sponge that actually allows water to pass through them into the earth underneath, thus providing value-added by facilitating drainage. Flooding is min-



VARIOUS designs can be achieved by interlocking MGS pervious pavers while retaining its interstitial openings to allow water filtration.

imized, if not eliminated altogether, and water does not have to be channeled into drainage canals.

Acting like a filter, these porous pavers have the added benefit of keeping debris in place for conve-Introduced locally by MGS at ment disposal, otherwise, debris Worldbex in March 2005 and at would flow into and possibly eventually fill up drainage systems. With their different colors and shapes, porous pavers offer a range of esthetic possibilities and can be used for driveways, gardens, pathways and other outdoor spaces.

Porous pavers allow cost savings www.mgs.com.ph.

for smaller outdoor areas. Since there is no need to build storm drains, homeowners can save on costs in the long run by not having to install drainage pipes and the like. At a cost of P490 per sq.m., porous pavers offer the same benefits and quality as regular pavers, while being a handy solution for drainage concerns.

Pervious pavers

For outdoor construction projects where surface finishes need to be smoother than those of porous pavers, MGS has developed pervious pavers, which are regular pavers, with the difference that these are ingeniously shaped. This particular shape for the pervious pavers, based on careful research, allows them to interlock into various designs while retaining interstitual openings that enable surface water to seep through efficiently. The shape is the only one which has been found to allow the most effective water infiltration

The pervious pavers are available in various colors that provide a mynad range of visual accents, and like porous pavers, are ideal for outdoor constructions such as driveways, gardens, pathways and other landscapes. As a functional and visual option, pebbles can be used to fill in the interstitial spaces between pervious Davers

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Brgy. Cabuco, Trece Martires City, Cavite Land Area: 34,485 sqm. Developed Portion: 10,845 sqm.

Physical Attributes: Ready to sell 44 residential low-cost units

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with 30,000 gallon overhead tank

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Undeveloped Portion: 23,640 sqm. Physical Attributes:

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Floor Price: P18,000,000 Last day of submission of sealed bid is on January 23, 2006 at 12:00 NN

To secure a copy of "PURCHASE PROPOSAL FORM" and complete bid guidelines, please visit us at The Property Forum Phils. **Unit 407 Ark Condominium** #92 Sierra Madre St., Mandaluyong City

or you may call us at 534-9686 or 534-9725; or at Celiphone Nos.: 0916-5208890 or 0927-8048262

> and look for Ms. Diane or Ms. Jemai

Pioneer Pointe ahead of construction schedule PIONEER POINTE, THE 28-STORY for JDBEC being ahead of schedule boxes, fire alarm and sprinkler sys-

residential condominium project of Filinyest Alabang, Inc. (FAI) on Pioneer Street in Mandaluyong, is one month ahead of its construction

J.D. Bernardo Engineering Construction Inc. (JDBEC) recently reported to FAI project team head for Pioneer Pointe Dom Valdecañas that it has finished close to 17 percent of construction work from the targeted 12.5 percent for October.

Ahead of schedule

"The 4.5 percent positive difference, based on the contractor's master bar chart and S-curve schedule, means that in terms of work time, we are approximately one month shead of schedule," Valdecañas sald. "We expect to achieve 24.73 percent completion by the end of November."

The project's first concrete pouring was in August 2005. The main reason

was the early concreting of the lower tem, secure vehicular entrance and ground level, the upper ground level, exit, underground reservoir and overparking level 1 and part of parking

JDBEC is expected to immediately start work on the tower units, with 25 stories allotted for residential anits. "Full blast na kamı (We're going full blast)," said the PAI executive. Topping off is scheduled for the third quarter of 2006, while turnover of units will be in the last quarter of

Amenities

Amenities of the project are a lobby/reception area, function room with panity, swimming pool, sun deck and children's play area. Other features are two levels of office years to come," he added, interested spaces, 24-hour security station, closed circuit TV (CCTV), two-way audio intercom system, two highspeed passenger lifts, individual mail-

head water tank, standby generator and garbage chute. Apart from being a convenient

home, Pioneer Pointe also makes an ideal company staff house or vacation home for out-of-towners. Buyers can also turn their unit into an incomegenerating investment should they decide to lease it out.

"The condominium's central location makes it attractive to the rental market, so owners are sure to get excellent returns on their investment," Valdecañas said, "And with Mandaluyong City on its way to becoming the 'Tiger City' of the future, property values can only appreciate in the parties can visit www.pioneerpointe.com for details or set an appointment to view model units by calling 687-1155.

WANT TO VIEW A CEZANNE?

Brittany Corporation unveils its latest masterpiece model home-Cezanne at Courtyards II of Portofino.

The latest in the series of courtyard homes and inspired by one of the world's master artists, Cezanne, like its predecessors, Rembrandt and Raphael, features a equaint indoor courtyard that offers the benefits of the outdoors right inside your home.

Cezanne has a floor area of 193 sq.m. and a minimum lot area of 224 sq.m. The 2-storey, 3-bedroom courtyard home efficiently lays out the living areas around the courtyard. With Cezanne, you have two layout options on the first floor. One option offers a casita or guest room. The other



layout has an antercom or receiving room.

Architectural details are distinctively Italian Old World with sun-drenched colors, large windows and a cupola at the main entrance.

Cezanne, with its indoor courtyard, is surrounded by grand courtyards.
The courtyard-within-a-courtyard concept is uniquely Brittany's,

implemented to an

unprecedented scale in the Philippines.

The courtyard collection represents a vital part of the grand masterplan of Portofino, involving world-inspired,

uniquely-themed homes and enclaves with facilities and amenities in a location that provides everything one needs for a better quality of life.

The initial Courtyards of Portofino quickly sold and the demand for courtyard homes is still rising. To answer the continuing demand, Brittany offers Courtyards II of Portofino. With Courtyards II of Portofino, you too can have your own courtyard home.

View a masterpiece. See the Cezanne at Courtyards II of Portofino For a Property Preview, call 850 6986 or 850 2868 or click www.brittany.com.ph



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Super!Countdown*

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> Editor Pam Pastor Creative Director Tim Yap

entertainment . recreation

sivie . Urban living .

Jessica Zafra, Banton Remote,
RJ Ledesma, Kooky Tuason
and other stars of Piney
POdCasting Page C3

Super! Selections

Must-watch: The Chronicles of Harnia. A talking lion, an evil witch, a magical wardrobe, four adventure-seeking kids, fauns and centaurs and a big hattle scene. We say bring on the popcorn.

before, read it again and refresh your mind before the movie version is shown. Must-visit: Eurostar Carnival. Celebrate your

Must-read: Memoirs of a Geisha. If you've read it - Must-eat: Zen's Sakura Roll. Even non-sashimi lovers would love it.

Must-listen: Alanis Morissette's The Collection. Re-visit her angst with this CD of her hits and her tayorites.



Eat good, live bad longer. Whatever lifestyle you choose, it's always a good choice to be healthy with our pure, natural and organic products. healthy options

botter choices i better life

By James Gabrillo, Pepe Diokno and David Milan

■INA DANIAC SWIMSUITS, A BIG OPEN FIELD (the one inside a university in Diliman), and a few minutes walk to get to a real working electrical outlet-and a hot hot young star ... at seven in the morning. Normally, you'd think, "this is going to be a frigging hard shoot." But it wasn't. Thank you, barbecue... rather, thank you, Katrina Halili.

Examina is beautiful -in or out to stand in the middle of a garof the slinky swimsuits she wore And while she was being caked by Shu Uemura makeup, and stylist Tina Daniac was all over her (not in the way you may want to envision)-she talked about how busy her schedule's turning out to be. Week after week, bookings and shootings are coming from left to right... and in front. Now, most young stars would say that with annoyance. She was excited. Seems like the career of this for mer Starstruck avenger is starting to create it's own bright path. We Pare sure she'll have a great, eyepopping way ahead of her. We at so included her as one of Super's 26 to watch out for this year. Dou-

ble excitement. And no, Super doesn't have gossip writers—we didn't scribble down her schedule (Or., did (we?) but it says a lot about who she is. She's game and doesn't have qualms that go with other iyoung actresses like her. Katrina Halili's doing things with gusto And that's something we need in this country. Young people who want to get out there-and do what they love. (Also, what we want-more young people ready

den/football field in a swims.iit Amen.)

This Super shoot was a great way to start of 2006. Here's to new, vibrant, people who want something, and are taking steps to get it. Here's to work ing, not slacking and enticizing. Here's to being like ants. ("We're not Filipino! We're ants!") Oh wait. But you get

Please follow the following instructions: 1) Look at the picture to the right. 2) Try, just try, to say something. (Pretend you're speech less-though you probably don't need to.) Now, that's why, we should just let Katrına talk.

The thing about fame is that... You get noticed ev-

The thing I love most about what I do is .. I earn and get to buy things I wanted without my parents' support

People might be surprised to know that... I'm approachable and a

thing I've ever learned is. , to love myse, f more than anything else

I wish when I started off I've been told... to

The worst thing that ever happened to me was that... (it's not really that bad but) I got to invite a beggar on stage while having a show but I didn't know how to get him down without offending him.

The secret to happiness is ..

our point.

erytime.

very friendly person The most important

choose the persons I could trust

And what taught this to me was... it's part of my job and I do it to entertain and make people

having true friends and family beside me, doing things I want without hesitation.

of a... two piece swimwear

time with friends at home. would include... "Can't- Take poor people

My Superl Saturday night

That Away" by Mariah Carey If I was invisible for a day, I would... go to my favorite places I'd asually go to when I wasn't in

show biz yet The thing that makes me ably say... we will surely miss

My best ever outfit consisted most angry is expeople interfering with my decisions in life

If I was the most powerful consists of., just having a great person on earth... I'd give equa. opportunities to every person on The soundtrack to my life earth so there will be no rich or

The best thing about family is that... you can always turn to them when the world turns its back on you.

When I'm gone, they'll prob-

Black Darna.

If money was no option ... thus world would be a better place to live in

When I retire, I would like to... go back to my hometown

and manage my own business. The world would be a much better place if... money was no

option. My hero is. my mother, beKATRINA HALILI.

The thing that makes my life worth hving is... my work, family, and friends

My greatest hope for the future is... to reach my dreams and achieve my goals in life.

The worst thing somebody said about me was that. I didn't deserve to be in FHM

My favorite moments are when... I go home to Palawan and just enjoy the scenery, nice ambience, and beautiful beaches.

My most embarrassing moment was when... I shot my very first pictorial while wearing swimsuits!1

I'm saving up for . my fu

My biggest indulgence is... Living at the top of a hill in a resort farm.

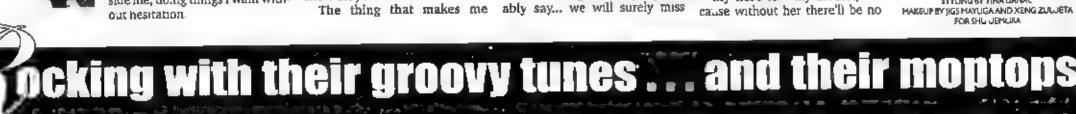
My current state of mind is... at peace

If someone would ply me in my biopic it would be... myseaf My 5 favorite words are...

adikl chuval chenesi ganon talagal inggitera kal I aspire to be... Successful and

a good actress someday

PHOTOS BY IENNA GENIO STYLING BY TIMA DANAC

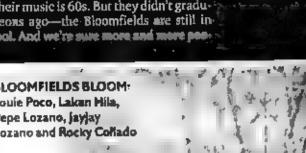


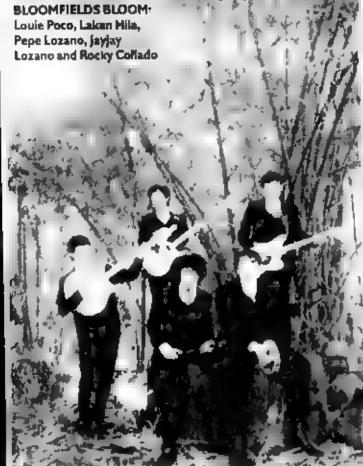
By James Gabrillo and Pepe Diokno:

O THEY DRESS ALIKE, IT MUST come from all the years they've spent with each other. The Bloomfields is a band that started playing together in grade school music classes at La Salle Greenhills. Yeah, they've been friends for that long-and their friendship is one thing. they hold dearer than their music. : 🐃

Their music is 60s. But they didn't gradu-age cons ago—the Bloomfields are still inachool. And we're sure more and more por-

They're 60s





ple are seeing (and hearing) how they make: 60s music cool.

If you've seen them (if you haven't we suggest you do), you'll agree, they put on a good show. Even the most un-musically inclined llama would start dancing once they plays They bring tons of super energy on stage and share it with whoever's listening. And they have enough power to make people listen.

But the Bloomfields are more than just

their unique cool orchestrated suits, shoes, and hairdos. Or their charm, What's great about the Bloomfields is their heart---for music, and performing. Ayost
Rocky of Bloomfields answers the Super

survey for his band.

The thing about fame is that... It's what everybody thinks it is. It's sometimes fun, sometimes cool, sometimes annoying, sometimes it gets to your head, and all that, It's like what you see on TV or hear about from rumore and stuff.

The thing I love most about what I do it... The thought that this is what we've always wanted to do and that we're actually doing $\mathfrak{t}_{k,j}$ Kinda makes a guy feel good.

People might be surprised to know that.... We didn't hear the music we play from our parents. We just discovered them on our own.

The most important thing I've ever-learned in that... In our experience with the bund and in dealing with other people, it's to expect that there will be those who'll try to bring you down but you should always take the higher road and not stoop to their level.

I wish when I started off I've been told

to... be wary of who to trust.

The worst thing that ever happened to us was that... we went all the way to the province for a gig and ended up playing 6 hours after we arrived with no food, money or a room to stay in.

And what this taught us was... Don't be

afraid if something let's you down. It's not the end of the world.

The secret to happiness is... to accept the fact that things sometimes go wrong and that we shouldn't get too hung up on it.



rock and roll parties (we're usually out on gigs; on Saturdays)

The soundtrack to our life would include. "Something Good" by Herman's Hermits.

If I was invisible for a day, I would be... incredibly naughty.

The thing that makes me most angry is... when they run out of donuts in the school cafeteria. Haha. Nothing really,

If I was the most powerful person on earth... I'd start world peace and crid world hunger. Or get a life time supply of ice cream, Depends on how much power we're talking about. The best thing about family is that... they go to most of my gigs. At least 5 of them at a

When I'm gone, they'll probably sughoo hoo hoo.

When I retire, I would like... in wife, kids.

pension and a nice computer. The world would be a much better place If... we had a 30 hour day and still require just 8

Our Super! Saturday night consists of thours of sleep. More time to work and play. My hero is... Gene Krupa.

The thing that makes my life worth living it... It isn't just one thing. It's everything. But if I had to choose, I guess it's the band.

My greatest hope for the future is... for its (the Bloomfields) to stay together. Whether bandmates or just buddies.

The worst thing somebody said about me was... I'm not supposed to say any profanities so I'll put it mildly-on arrogant

My favorite moments are when....

and the guys are on stage laughing about

I'm saving up for,.. computer upgrades; My biggest indulgence is... caffeine. My current state of mind is... contemplative (because of all the questions in this

My 5 favorite words are. Cuoi. Yep. Astig. Hey Later

I aspire to be with better musicians



Text and photos by Pam Pastor

ATE LAST YEAR, I FOUND MYSELF IN a cozy recording studio somewhere in the Ortigas area, willing my nerves and my vocal chords not to fail me.

No, I wasn't getting ready for my musical debut, I was busy recording my first podcast.

Podcasting (yep, a play on your beloved "iPod" and the word "broadcasting") is a way of publishing files to the Internet. These files-mostly audio (although some people have started with video too)-will be downloaded by people who can listen to it on their iPods, their iPod-like gadgets and even their computers.

I like to think of it as blogging for the ears.

Fast forward to a few weeks later, I found myself at Red Box in Greenbelt where Microwarehouse, the pump daddy of all things Apple, launched podcasting in the Philippines by uploading thirty different podcast stations for everyone's downloading pleasure.

"This is the first time that a collective effort is done to create a podcasting content that the Philippines can be proud of," Ms Cynthia Veloria, president of Microwarehouse, said. "The project is intended to showcase local content that can provide a glimpse of Filipino life and

culture " It was a great choice of venue—each Red Box room was transformed to match their assigned podcast channel. Channels include Gay Speak, Youth Speak, Poetry, Parenting, Inspirational and Spiritual, Opinion, Tech Talk, Society, Men, Women, Lifestyle, Food, Campus, Education and News. Outside, listening stations were set up so people can listen to sruppets of the differ-

ent podcasts. Soon, the AVP was rolling in every television in the venue. "Over S Million People Will Be Listening," the large letters seemed to scream. It was enough to give my inner geek goose-

After the AVP, hosts Bianca Gonzales and Vic leasas went around the different rooms asking people about their podcast. Super's Tals Diaz was there to talk about Fully Booked's podcast which features book reviews and excerpts from best-sellers. Jessica Zafra made everyone laugh by declaring traditional media as obsolete. "Twisted, the Podcast" is her usual lethal mix of funny and smart. RJ Ledesma, who was there to promote Manua. Magazine's podcast on "what makes women tick and what makes men tock," gets the award for the funnest interview.

Another must-download podcast is Kooky Tuason's Romancing Venus—samples from her CD of the same title which features music, poetry and the voices of Angel Aquino, Super columnist KC Concepcion, Cindy Kurleto, Wawi Navarozza and many others.

There is no shortage of geeks in the Pinoy podcasting circuit. And I mean that in a very very good way. Because yeah, geeks are sexy. Check out podcasts from MPH Magazine, T3 Magazine, Gamesmaster, C! Publishing and the video podcast from Drour. There are also podcasts from the Philippine Mac Users Group and the Philippine iPod Users Group.

Women will appreciate the podcasts of Marie Claure magazine, which features tips for career woman and Beauty 101 by Metro Magazine.

Other podcasts available for download are the PCIJ Channel, featuring audio documentaries on Philippine politics reported by David Ceidran and Nol. de Castro; Danton Remoto's Gay Speak, Y Speak's Video Podcast; Heights Poetry, Mommy Talk by Maricel Laxa-Pangilinan, Dial Direk where Director Freddie Santos encourages you to become a star in your life; Tatler Magazine's podcast about Manila society; Chinggay Andrada's Health and Pitness; Fabuious by Dominique James; Eddie llarde's Kahapon Lamang; Nancy Reyes-Lumen's The Practical Cook; Halikinu Radio and Red Box Requests where Paolo del Rosario gives a rundown of the songs people like singing the most.

Check out the Pinoy podcasts by visiting http://www.microwarehouse.com.ph/podcast/podcast.php or subscribe by clicking on your Tunes, selecting Advanced from the menu and Subscribe to podcast. Enter this URL; http://www.microwarehouse.com.ph/podcast xml. But don't stop at just listening. Let yourself be heard. Make your own podcasts

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onfessions of a former poker virg

If you can't spot

the sucker

within the first

half hour at the

table, then you

are the sucker.

-Matt Damon

in 'Rounders'

HEN IT COMES TO COMpetition organized sports, card games or whateverthere is only one thing more annoying than a sore loser a smartass winner. How do I know? Let's just say I was that buffoon not so long ago. Foshiznit, you fooist

Prodded into the jaws of small time gam bling by a few close buddies, I found myself in the company of recreational card snarks, all of whom had little faith in my ability to p.ay-much less win-a fera, male game of risk and skill. And who could brame them for doubting my Zen-like concentration? Up until that point, I was a poker virgin. (An attentiondeficited one at that.) But yeah, chugalugging a few more beers, I moseyed right along.

I mean, how hard could it be? Poker involves rung down. I have an ass. Poker concerns

chips and betting. I love The Vegas. Poker entails stoically looking at a bunch of cards before grouping them. Hey, I look good doing that. And I have a college degree. Bring on the A game for I will cause your intestines to explode and make you crap your pants in pain, right? Right? Wrong. As it turned out, I was chaeressiy indulging in brackack—I repeat, brackjack—to the horror of my poker-crazy pals. It was a really, really long might. Oh boy.

Poker, not 'Poke her!'

Though poker has gone through a space in popularity in recent years, especially

with Generation Z, it is, by no means, fresh off the boat. Historians note that the name of the game possibly descended from the French poque, which took its cue from the German pochen. However, it's not certain whether the beginnings of poker itself lie within the ancient games that answer to those names. And there I was, under the impression that poker came about when intoxicated jocks grunted "Poke her's at drunken coeds during a frat party in the middle ages. (Just because I made that last part up doesn't mean it never happened.) Anyway.

It's also akery the Persian game of as has, the Renaissance game of primero, the French brelan, and the English game brag influenced the development of poker as we know it now. As early as 1829, poker was prayed in New Orleans with a deck of 20 cards. After the 52-card deck was introduced during the American Civil War, variations were made, among them stud poker and five-card poker Like herpes and other fun STDs, the spread of the game to other countries, particularly in Asia, is often attributed to the US muttary. We love you long time!

From the arrival of the "World Series of Poker" in the 70s to the introduction of "Celebrity Poker Showdown" on Bravo in the OOs, the simple card game has appealed to huge audiences. In fact, online poker has as many fans now as its old school counterpart, and the invention of the hole-card camera has turned the low-key diversion into a full-on spectator sport.

Don't mess with Texas

Though strip poker is hands down the sluthest member of the poker family today, the easiest and most well-known one is called Texas

The dealer shuffles a standard 52-card deck as a round disc-the dealer button-makes its

Age against the machine

Gino de la Paz

way clockwise from player to piayer. (This puck-like thingamabob marks which player would be the dealer as the game goes along. Like, dealing cards, not drugs)

Most Texas Hold 'Em Poker games start with the two players to the left of the dealer "post ing the bunds " Translation, they put a predetermined amount of money into the pot before any cards are dealt. Each player is dealt two cards face down called "hole cards."

After the first berting round, the dealer discards the top card of the deck, a k.a. "burning

the card," to prevent cheating. Then the dealer flips the next three cards face up on the rable-the "flop " A total of five community cards will be placed for all to see on the table and players can use these with their own cards to form the best possible hand Following that, the poker player with the most consonants in his name bursts into flames, Gotcha Just checking if you're still with me.

Okay, so another round of berting takes place, the dealer burns another card and plays one more face up onto the table, the third round of betting begins, and the dealer burns another card before

placing the fina, face-up card on the table. Blan blah blah, players can now use any combination of these seven cards to, again, form the most awesome five-card Poker hand. After the final betting round, all players who remain in the game reveal their hands. And duh, the player with the best hand wins a stack of, like, colorfui plastic tokens. Yayl

I'm all in, sorta

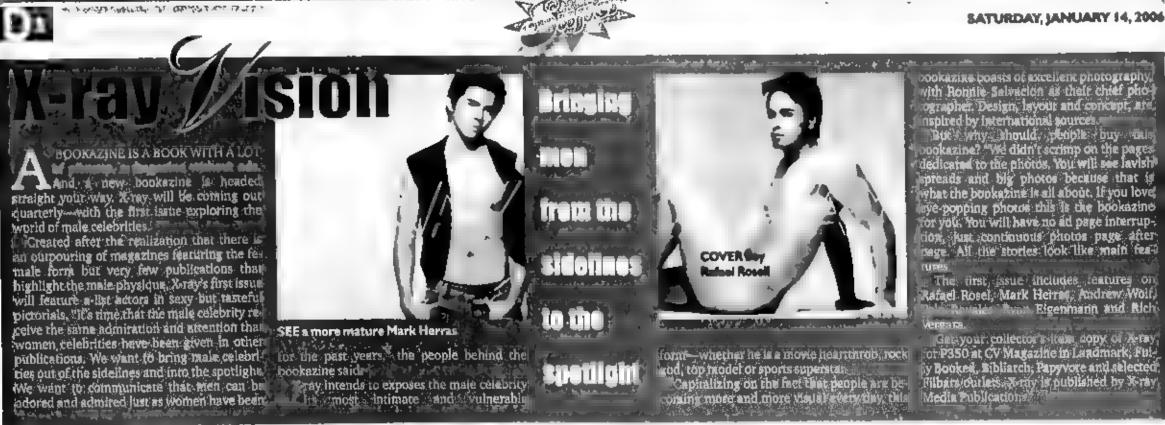
On the one hand, I would've appreciated all that info before I placed bets and threw cards around like a pre-tween in need of a nap. On the other, pre-knowledge of the rules and objectives would've probably made me more respectful of the game and my fellow players. Which would've made me more serious and boring. Which would've made my subsequent journey from nowhere to famous in one game less sweet Am I making sense?

What I'm trying to say is this. By a million o'clock that evening, I was deep-sea diving in a pile of chips despite my giaring lack of power poker know-how. Call my victory a fluke, mere beginner's luck, or a cautionary tale, but hey, I still won the pot fair and square. Whoa, did I rub that in. (That felt so awesome, by the

To this day I still have no idea how I pulled that one off, since my brain was away chasing clouds instead of concentrating on winning the damn game. Then again, maybe being oblivious to it al. and just having fun is the key to winning poker, whether you're a career player or a certified newbie. (Being obnoxious at the table might not be the best way to play but it sure takes the edge off) Conservative poker dudes may brush off my approach—and never invite me ever again-but really, when you boil it down, it's still anyone's game. Pardon the pun, but they just have to, like, deal with that

CONFESSIONS, D2





Zine Jociety

y Albert Alisuag Contributor

AVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF A clever concept but didn't know how to spread the word? A viable option is to make a fanzine—the neighborhood and iniernational underground guide to the subverive and subhme.

Also known as "zines," fanzines are noncommercial, nonprofessional, small-circulaion magazines that are produced, published and distributed by the creators and writers themselves. Zines usually cater to one specific market or genre. Its roots could be traced back tő over 70 years ago

The first fanzine was The Comet, put together by the Science Correspondence Club in in

Fans of science fiction magazines began enting their own stories and reproducing perional versions of their favorite magazines by means of oid mimeographs. Panzine creators and their dedicated audiences are also known as zinesters. The age of the fanzine was born and the world of publishing was never the sime since.

The new wave of the zine revolution, the music fanzine, is a product of the punk mass glovement that blasted its way through London, New York and the rest of the world in the mid '70s. Seminal punk bands like Ramones, e. it. Unfortunately, Herald X was short-lived and The Sex Pistois, Sham 69, The Clash, X-Ray Specs and The Ruts rocked and inspired the., Herald X's influence was fleeting, the momenkids, gained prominence and some even pierced the charts.

Rebelling against the man

cause—rebeding against the man through its music, fashion and beliefs. Revising the status quo and finally destroying the system are its main objectives. Punk also propagates the "domyourself" ethic-that you can do anything yourself, as long as you have the enthusiasm to ger things done. Talent, gender and class are of no matter—it's the fire within that counts.

Those principles were the ones that fueled

the early English would-be punk writers to produce their own funzines. Thanks in part to the spread of photocopiers, the punks suddenly had a cheap and easy way to reproduce their defiant materias.

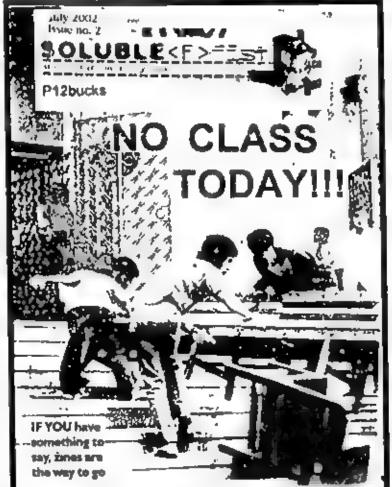
Just like in the other parts of the world, the anarchic ways of punk was able to penetrate our shores.

Pinoy punk

A year after punk broke internationally, it was introduced to the metro in 1978, on the show Rock of Manila, hosted by Dante "Howlin' Dave" David on dzRJ 810. It .mmediately gained force, spawning tocal punk bands like The Jerks, The Lost Boys, Private Stock, Ocean Zoo, Wuds, Black Signals, Sex Militants, Runaway Boys, Public Scandal, Philippine Violators, I.O.V. and Urban Bandits in the process. Due to the increase of bands in the then booming Philippine punk underground, it was safe to say that a serious local fanzine breakout was about to take hold, By 1987, Manua's first fanzine was unleashed named Heraid X, eventually becoming known as "the alternative music read for the bored generation." HX was a pioneer in the local self-publishing industry and acted as the official fanzine of the underground during that time. Tommy Tanchanco, a key figure in the local punk underground then, responsible for the Brave New World movement and founder of the Twisted Red Cross cassette-only record label, was the man behind only delivered two issues. But even though tum it gathered was immense and recoiled back ferociously in the form of other zines on the eye of Heraid X's wake. Zines like Muniat ed News, B.atant Underground, OiBanger, An-Punk as a movement has a much larger ti, Blank Information, Garbage, Grrowll and Manile Oi Paper sprouted soon after and the local fanzine community was born.

Your guide to zines

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Brotherhood

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How to get a copy

If you are curious on how to obtain copy, a good place to look out for is your neighborhood independent music store College zinesters also usually sell their works on their campus bookstores or on roving distros. They can also pop up in novelty shops scattered across the metro. Ask your cousin or your neighbor, they might even be zinesters themselves. The key is to know where to search. Once you get a copy, you can already delve deeper in the zine world by contacting its creator or ordering other zines if your copy has fanzine reviews.

Zines have changed over the years. Today there are hundreds of kinds of zines around the world, catering to a whole piethora of different genres, interests and audiences

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But the thrill of having a fresh copy of your favorite countercusture zine, slowly thumbing through its pages, can never be replaced by the click of a mouse.

Panzines exist for a reason, to give a pure and alternative view of the world we live in It is a totally separate entity from the coverage of mainstream media, ruled by the bigwigs in major corporations. Rock n' roll, sex, religion or any topic can be seen in totally diverse views-from the point of view of the obsessed fan to the highly motivated activist or the cynical bloke who thinks it's the end of the world. The list goes on The zines go on. Consider your interests, there might already be a fanzine society dedicated to it. If not, go start one.





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- 8. Short Stack: The player with the fewest chips at the table. 8. Tight Player: A conservative player who only
- plays strong hands 18. Donksy: A polite term for a stupid player. Heehawi



Zine Jociety

By Albert Alisuag **Contributor**

AVE YOU EVER THOUGHT OF A clever concept but didn't know how to spread the word? A viable option is to make a fanzine—the neighborhood and inigrnational underground guide to the subversive and sublime Also known as "zines," fanzines are non-

commercial, nonprofessional, small-circuiabon magazines that are produced, published and distributed by the creators and writers themselves. Zines usually cater to one specific market or genre. Its roots could be traced back to over 70 years ago

The first fanzine was The Comet, put together by the Science Correspondence Ciub in in May 1930 in the US

Sci fi

Fans of science fiction magazines began writing their own stories and reproducing perna, versions of their favorite magazines by means of old mimeographs. Fanzine creators and their dedicated audiences are also known as zinesters. The age of the fanzine was born and the world of publishing was never the same since

The new wave of the zine revolution, the music fanzine, is a product of the punk mass movement that biasted its way through London, New York and the rest of the world in the mid '70s. Seminal punk bands like Ramones, The Sex Pistols, Sham 69, The Clash, X-Ray Specs and The Ruts rocked and inspired the mids, gained prominence and some even pierced the charts

Rebelling against the man

music, fashion and beliefs. Revising the status quo and finally destroying the system are its main objectives. Punk also propagates the "do-# yourself" ethic-that you can do anything yourself, as long as you have the enthusiasm to get things done. Talent, gender and class are of no matter—it's the fire within that counts
Those principles were the ones that fueled

the early English would-be punk writers to produce their own fanzines. Thanks in part to the spread of photocopiers, the punks suddenly had a cheap and easy way to reproduce their defiant materials

Just like in the other parts of the world, the anarchic ways of punk was able to penetrate our shores.

Pinoy punk

A year after punk broke internationally, it was introduced to the metro in 1978, on the show Rock of Manila, hosted by Dante "Howlin Dave" David on dzRJ 810. It immediately gained force, spawning local punk bands like The Jerks, The Lost Boys, Private Stock, Ocean Zoo, Wuds, Black Signals, Sex Militants, Runaway Boys, Public Scandal, Philippine Violators, I.O.V and Urban Bandits in the process Due to the increase of bands in the then booming Philippine punk underground, it was safe to say that a serious local fanzine breakout was about to take hold. By 1987, Manua's first fanzine was unleashed named Herald X, eventually becoming known as "the atternative music read for the bored generation." HX was a pioneer in the local self-publishing industry and acted as the official fanzine of the under ground during that time. Tommy Tanchanco, a key figure in the local punk underground then, responsible for the Brave New World move ment and founder of the Twisted Red Cross cassette-only record label, was the man behind it. Unfortunately, Herald X was short lived and only delivered two issues. But even though Herald X's influence was fleeting, the momentum it gathered was immense and recoiled back feroclously in the form of other zines on the eve of Herald X's wake. Zines like Mutilated News, Blarant Underground, O.Banger, An-Punk as a movement has a much larger in, Blank Information, Garbage, Grrowl, and cause—rebelling against the man through its. Manila O. Paper sprouted soon after and the local fanzine community was born.

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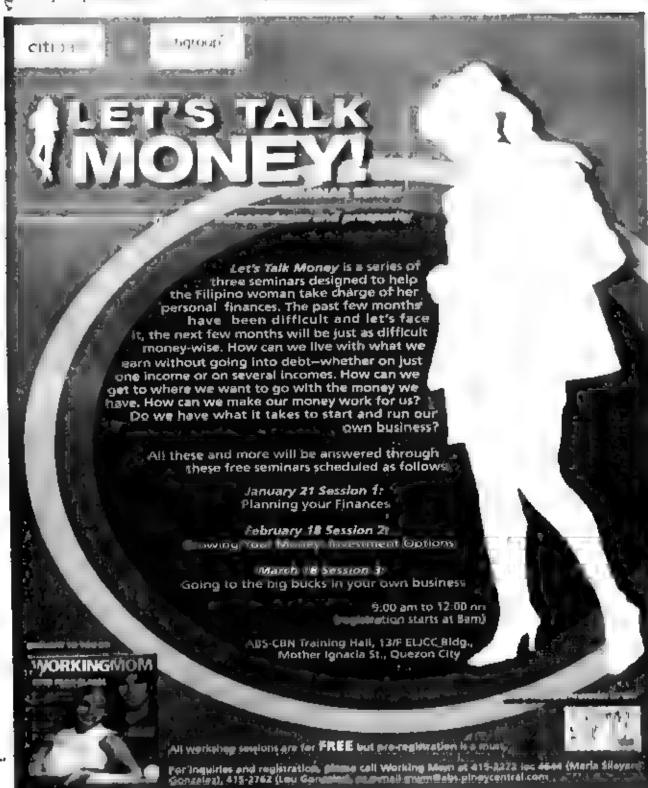
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downtown New York that fushion is more than just and Purisuan living to Manila, clothes. It is rooted in a it also promises to give your philosophy that speaks of life a total make over. With freedom to be yourself and to live Greenbelt and several other major fashion hubs all within walking distance, keeping up with the letest trends, or storting a new one, can literally resourcing success of The be a walk in the park, And Avenue, while you're at it, why not another set of Columns is rising make good use of that new gym outfit and burn Village. With the introduction a few calories on the way? At The Columns Legazpi Village, a better life, like everything else, is within a few stops.

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Community Innovations is an Ayala Land company that caters to young urban achievers. It bullds balanced, harmonious communities with a sense of fier, where the living experience enhances the lifestyles and fulfills the aspirations of its customers.





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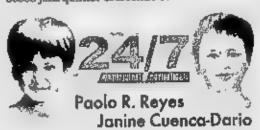
DY JANUARY 14, 2006

SATURDAY,



EXT WEEKEND, THERE WILL BE many reasons to lend our support to the Jazz Society of the Philippines, as they undertake the massive step of mounting the 1st Philippine International Jazz and Arts Festival (www.pijazzfest.com) from Jan. 20 to 23 at simultaneous venues in the city.

Apart from the over 300 multinational jazz bands and soloists performing, there will also be quite an influx of world-class foreign artists, including American songbird Kevyn Lettau, Brazilian pianist Emir Deodata, Australian tribal music troupe Sirocco, percussionist Mike Shapiro, chanteuse Charmaine Clamor, and LAbased jazz quintet Crescendo 5.



"We hope to put our country in the international jazz map," shares festival organizer Sandra Lim Viray, who reminded us of a time when, as the greater part of the world .ay naive to the winds of jazz, Fupinos were already pumping our New Orleans-style jazz even before the likes of Louis Amnstrong and Duke Ellington rose to

Manila Surfers Cup Launch Party @ Katips, Jan. 18

We've found you the perfect excuse to grab your backpack, drive north, and arrive at the sundrenched shores of a surfer's paradise. The Manila Surfers Association holds a happening party at Katips (209 Katipunan Ave., Slue Ridge, O.C., phone: 912-9437] on Wednesday to launch the upcoming Manita Suriers Cup (Jan. 21 at San Juan, La Union). Aside from having a fashion show by Reef and Oakley, interested participants may already register for the competition at the party (Chillax, the fee is only P300, tops.) Surf's up, people, way up!

Backstreet Boys: Live in Manila! @ Araneta Coliseum, Jan. 20

Better make a run for those front row seats it you intend make that furtive dash to the stage and plant a multiple kisses on the already-maded cheeks of Nick Carter, Cai. 911-5555.

Jason Mraz: Live! @ Rockwell Tent & NBC Tent, Jan. 20 & 21

28-year-old Grammy-nominated crooner Jason. Mraz returns to the P1, to perform songs from his new album. In case you missed his concert last year, now's your chance to stand, mouth agene as you fisten to those lovely, filting lyrics from the reigning wordplay prince of pop-rock. He will stage two special acoustic engagements at the Rockwell Tent on Jan. 20 and the NBC Tent on Jan. 21 Call

World Jazz Fiesta: Festival kick off & street party @ The Podium, Jan. 20

Performing at the opening party next Friday is quite a crowd-drawing line-up. The Brass Munkeys, Guarana, Nyko Meca, Electrosamba, Hairy Dawgs, Pinikpikan, and Sirocco 7 p.m. onwards at The Podium Mail, Ortigas Center, Pastg. Call 891-9999. 911-5555, or visit www.pijazzfest.com

Other Super! 24/7 events:

Jan. 14, Saturday

Pedicab, Drip, Itchyworms, Narda, Brownbeat All Stars & Too Late the Hero at Saguijo; Supermodel Saturdays at Embassy Club, Moonstar88 at Conspiracy, DJ Badboy Jeff at Temple: Soundsgood DJs at Embassy Guisine

Jan. 15, Sunday

Bloody Mary Sundays at Absinth; CouchLab DJs at Bamboo Lounge, Fort; Acoustic Night at Phi Bar

Jan. 16, Monday

Outerhope at Conspiracy; Legendary Mondays with DJ Patch at Absinth, Follies de Mwah at Glub Mwah; Jazz Trio at Captain's Bar

Jan. 17, Tuesday

Panic with The Dorques, Death by Tampon, Monsterbot, The Ex Presidents, and DJs Alessandra Timo & Chi Castañeda at Zen; Ethan band at Temple, Sitar Nights at Bollywood

jan. 18, Wednesday

Faces Nights with Boyet Almazen at Mezze: D.is Karl Ty & Cae Ocampo at Embassy Cuisine; OJs Mars Miranda & Johnyverse at Embassy Clutt; Mayonnaise, Collie Herb, Rinka, Salamin & Tie Dye Shift at Saguijo, Blow VIP Birthday Bash at Government

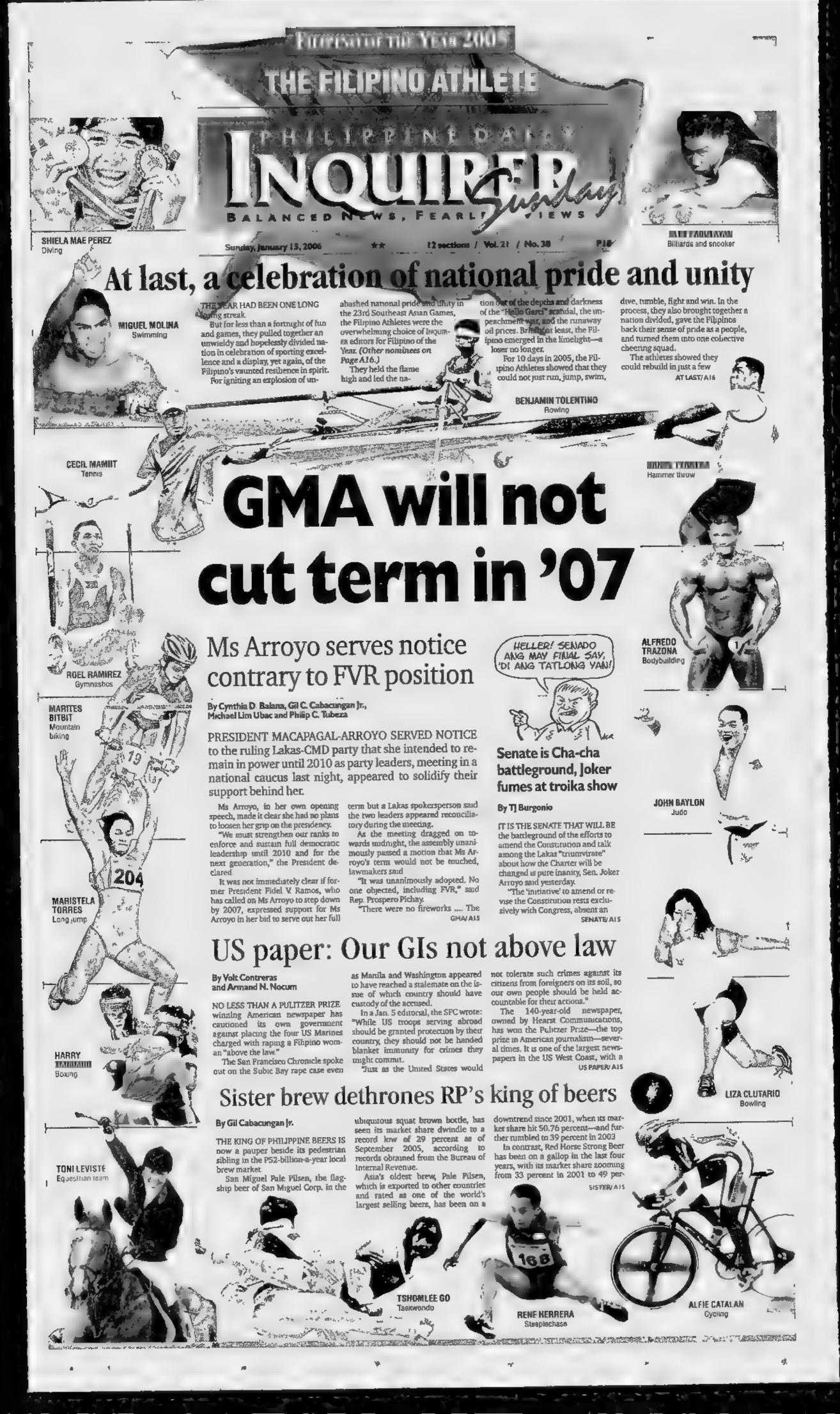
Jan. 19, Thursday

Cooky Chua at Conspiracy; Gay Speed Dating with DJ Brit at Government, Kapatid, Triggerbilss, Soapdish & CopperPopThrill at Saguijo

Jan. 20, Friday

Celebrating the SoCal Sound feat Severo, Chicosci, Man Down, Chongkies, & Too Late the Hero at Saguijo; UpDharma Down & DayDream Cycle at Conspiracy; D.Is Marie Garcia & Martin Aquino at Embassy Culsine; Brass Munkeys, Guarana, Nyko Maca, Electrosamba, Hairy Dawgs, Pinikpikan, and Sirocco at The Podium; Jiva Fridays at Tempia

Schedules may change without prior notice For more information and a complete listing of events, text 24/7 through your mobile phone and send to 2949 for Globe and 209 for Smart, Log on to www.mag24-7.com or pick up your free copy of 24/7 Nocturnal Navigator at bars and restaurants around the city. Submit your schedules before Wednesday to events@mag24-7.com and mag24_7@yahoo.com.



Begala Togeogéan Lucey (Jack Jene Cloudy with Reins Cloudy with Rains Cloudy with Reins

Gloudy with Raine Gen. Bentes Cloudy with Rains Zamboangé Gloudy with Paking Copayan da Ore Capudy with Reins

Cops seize 1,900 guns, 130,000 more to go

By Luige A. dei Puerto

THE POLICE SEIZED 1,900 LOOSE FIREARMS last year, leaving an estimated 130,000 more unlicensed weapons of all types and calibers in the hands of unidentified people throughout the country, according to official records.

weapons, the records showed about 400,000 guns had expired beenses as of the end of 2004, nearly half of the total of 900,000 firearms registered with the Philippine National Police. The selves of the PNP's amnesty pro-

In addition to the unlicensed police's latest records on unlicensed firearms were as of the end of 2004.

The records of the PNP's Intelligence Directorate showed that only 7,900 people availed them-

gram in 2005, and officials said zon) with 25,000, Region 6 the program.

We have asked the regional 10,000. directors to feel the pulse of the people," said Chief Supt. Arturo Cacdac, head of the PNP's Firearms and Explosives Division. We want to know if they still want an extension of the amnesty

According to the records, the largest collections of unlicensed firearms were found in the Autonomous Region in Muslim Minfollowed by Region 4-A (Calabar- of the amnesty program in

they were thinking of extending (Western Visayas) 21,000, and Region 9 (Western Mindanao)

Next on the list was Metro with 7,000 loose firearms.

Firearms licensing, including renewals, remained the biggest revenue-generating activity of the police, ferching around P290 million in 2005, some P80 mullion more than in the previous year. The amount included P28 million in fees paid by danao with an estimated 35,000, those who availed themselves

The PNP says it has been stricter in regulating guns and, according to the Association of Firearms and Ammunition Dealers, this has contributed to a downturn in the sales of weapons.

The Anti-Gun Society has blamed the recent wave of political killings nationwide partly on the Filipinos' love affair with

Meanwhile, the National Police Commission has announced that 21,973 PNP positions were vacant, paving the way for the

promotion or employment of as many officers or would-be police-

The available ranks range from Senior Police Officer SPO) 2 to Senior Superintendent down to Senior Police Officer (SPO) 2, the Napolcom said in a statement Fri-

The openings include 301 slots for senior superintendent, 581 for superintendent, 802 for chief inspector, 966 for senior inspector, 413 for inspector, 5,930 for SPO4, 7,007 for SPO3, and 5,973 for SPO2. With a report from Thrra V. Quismundo

Local oil firms set more price hikes

By Abigail L. Ho

AFTER IMPLEMENTING A ROLLBACK AT the start of the year, oil firms succumbed to escalating world oil prices and hiked the prices of their gasoline, diesel and kerosene by 50 centavos a liter and of cooking gas by 50 centavos per kilogram.

First to implement the price adjustment was refiner Pilipinas Sheil Petroleum Corp., which raised its rates at 6 p.m. yesterday.

Following at 12:01 a.m. today are fellow refiner Petron Corp. and pure finshed product importers Caltex Philippines Inc., Eastern Petroleum Corp. and Flying V.

Unioil Petroleum Philippines Inc. will raise prices by the same levels at 6 a.m. today, while Seaoil Petroleum Corp. will increase its

rates by 12:01 a.m. tomorrow.

The oil firms cited the surge in world oil prices as the reason for the price hike.

According to data from the Department of Energy, the regional benchmark Dubai crude rose by almost \$4 to a January average of \$56.86 a barrel from last month's average of \$53.20 a barrel.

The price of unleaded gasoline based on the Mean of Platts Singapore (MOPS) benchmark for refined petroleum products had likewise skyrocketed to \$66.64 in the Jan. 1-12 period, a hike of more than \$5 from \$61.01 a

MOPS-based diesel also soured to an average of \$71 99 a barrel in the first 12 days of January from \$67.03 a barrel in Decem-

The international contract price of LPG also surged to an all-time high of \$582 per metric P530 per 11-kilogram cylinder.

ton (MT), rising by \$44 from the December average of \$538 per MT.

LPG contract prices had been steadily rising since July last year when it was pegged at \$400.10 per MT. By the following month, the price had risen to \$404.20 per MT and to \$440.20 per MT in Septem-

The price breached the \$500 per MT level in October at \$519 per MT, which again rose to \$549 per MT in November. The price dropped to \$538 per MT in December, only to rise to \$582 per MT this month.

With this price hike, premium unleaded gasoline will now retail at between P36.15 and P37.40 a liter, diesel at between P29 90 and P33.65 a liter, and kerosene at between P32.65 and P35.80 a liter.

LPG will now sell for between P480 and

FVR favors British over French model of parliament

Zone – Former President Fidel V Ramos batted for the British parliamentary model over the French type espoused by other leaders like Speaker Jose de Venecia in the Charter-change (Cha-cha) debate.

"In the (British) House of Commons, the government represented by the prime minister and the opposition debate local, domestic, national and international questions over a not-so-large table," Ramos told reporters here on Friday. "They engage in debate face to face, in a very transparent but very civil and intelligent intellectual discourse."

Ramos added: "Small problems to begin with are debated in that manner and before they become national scandals. Action is being taken by Parliament to protect the national interest in a swift manner and to me that is a better system."

The French model, he said, was "almost a replica of the status quo in the Philippines." He called attention to the "slowness" with which the French parliament resolved the riots in Pans in December.

Ramos also dropped hints that still not agree with finality on tral Luson Desk

CLARK SPECIAL ECONOMIC whether President Macapagal-Arroyo should cut her term short and serve with diminished powers should there be a shift to a parliamentary form of govern-

If nothing positive still came out of the Lakas meeting, he said he was all for letting Congress as the representative of the people decide on the matter.

He also stressed that the economy should take precedence over all other concerns.

"The solution [to the country's problems] is to make Clark and Subic and the economy the main effort of our leaders because while we are now pursuing political reforms... the economy, espemally the economy of the poor Filipinos, is to me the most pressing, current as well as future problem of the Philippines," he

He also moved to debunk speculanons he still harbored ambitions to return to power by bidding to become prime minister should a parliamentary government be installed.

Why should I aspire for any position?" he said, noting that a position in Parliament represented a the national directorate of the ad- "demotion" for a former Presimunistration party Lakas might dent. Tonette Orejus, PDI Cen-

Hold departure order issued vs Tan brothers

By Nestor P. Burgos Jr. PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY-THE DEPART ment of Justice has issued a hold departure order against the Tan brothers tagged in the killing of their businessman father, stepmother and six-year-old half-sis-

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez said the order against Archie, 23, and Jan (not John as earlier reported) Michael Tan, 18, was issued Friday and will take effect upon its receipt by the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation and other concerned agencies.

"The case has already been filed in the prosecutor's office," Gonzalez told the INQUIRER in a telephone interview, adding, "Parricide is a very serious

He said he issued the hold order because there was a possibility of flight by the respondents and "to preserve the situation" so that the investigation could pro-

The brothers, through their legal counsel, have maintained that they will not leave the country.

"They will be here and will face the charges and cooperate with an interview.

She said her clients were "still in shock, coping with their parents' and sister's death" and were afraid that they would be arrested after the complaint against them was filed.

The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group (CIDG) in Westem Visayas on Friday filed two counts of murder and a count of parricide against the brothers for the Jan. 8 killing of their father, Prancisco "Bobby" Tan Jr., step-

mother Cynthia Zayco-Tan and their half-sister Kathy.

The businessman was found dead on his bed in the master bedroom in the two-story family mansion in Molo district. Cynthia's body was found in Archie's room, adjacent to the master bedroom, while Kathy's body was found at the doorway of her parent's room.

All the victims bore multiple stab wounds in the chest. Investigators believed the victims were killed between 7 p.m. and 11:30 p.m. on Jan. 8 based on autopsy results.

The boys had told investigators that they had sneaked out of the house at around 12:45 a.m. on Jan. 9 to go barhopping and they discovered the victims' bodies when they returned home at around 3 a.m.

Police said evidence they had gathered and the testimonies of witnesses Indicated that the brothers were in the house during the killings, thus providing probable cause for the filing of the complaints.

But Lingayan-Gonzales said there was no direct evidence linking her clients to the killings.

The pieces of evidence they subthe investigation," lawyer Nelia mitted were circumstantial and at Jesusa Lingayan-Gonzales said in this point there is no eyewitness account to the killings," she said.

Lingayan-Gonzales said her clients insisted they were "the victims, not the perpetrators."

Ilollo City Prosecutor Efram Baldago said he assigned the case. to Assistant City Prosecutor Jeremy Bronat to speed up the investi-

The prosecutor's office issued subogenas to the brothers late Friday and required them to submit their counter-affidavits within 10 days.



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90% of Lapu-Lapu, Mandaue ballots spurious-Loren

By Cynthia D. Balana

ABOUT 90 PERCENT OF THE BALLOTS FROM Lapu-Lapu City and Mandaue City in Cebu were found to be spurious in the ongoing recount for the 2004 vice presidential race, former Sen. Loren Legarda claimed yesterday.

Legarda issued the statement to belie the claim of President Macapagal-Arroyo that no evidence of fraud was uncovered in the two Visayan cities in the recount being undertaken by the Supreme Court sitting as the Presidential Electoral Tribunal

The President had based her announcement on the report of her lawyer, Romulo Macalintal, who is also the lead counsel of Vice President Noti de Castro in the election protest filed by Legarda be-

"I wish Attorney Macalintal would not resort to falsehoods, especially since as a lawyer, he is an officer of the court who should be the last to tell bare-faced lies," Legarda said.

Legarda said her lawyers, in fact, had made manifestations with the PET as to the spuriousness of the ballots from the two cities.

The ballot-substitution in Cebu is yet another proof of measures undertaken to cover up the election fraud that had been committed in the 2004 elections to prop up my rival's illegiturnate hold on office," Legarda said.

She said the real ballots from the two cines were clearly substituted with fakes so they would correspond with the similarly "spurious" results reflected in the election returns.

Legarda also said that many of the ballots were dearly filled up by the same group of people because of the striking similarities in the penman-

The ballot boxes from Mandaue and Lapu-Lapu also lacked security seals, an indication they were tampered with, she said.

The PET, however, has yet to rule on the Legarda camp's manifestations that the revision of ballots in Cabu has clearly shown evidence of ballotsubstitution and other anomalies.

Legarda scored Macalintal for trying to preempt the PET by announcing that no evidence of fraud had been uncovered in Lapu-Lapu and Mandaue.

"What Attorney Macalinial has been saying is the exact opposite of what's happening at the

Is GMA coming to Asean tourism ministers' forum?

DAVAO CITY—THE ASEAN TOURISM FORUM (ATF) is set to formally open on Tuesday but President Macapagal-Arroyo has yet to confirm her attendance, according to organizers.

The ATE which is the biggest tourism cooperation summit in Southeast Asia, kicked off here on Friday with the arrival of foreign and local delegates

Tourism manisters from the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations and officials from European-member countries, Japan, South Korea and China would be meeting here on Monday to discuss problems besetting the tourism industry, including terror threats.

Davao Host Council (DHC) vice chair Art Boncato said an invitation had been sent to Ms Arroyo but there was still no word from Malacañang on whether the chief executive would be coming.

Host city

Ms Arroyo personally endorsed Davao to be the host city of the 25th ATF after Burma (Myanmar) backed out and the Philippines agreed to host it.

Patmer Ruivivar, Mayor Rodrigo Duterte's aide, said Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace Durano was the only top level government official who had confirmed his attendance at one of Asean's important events.

Ruivivar said the President could have decided not to come since tourism ministers will be representing the Asean governments at the forum, and not their chief executives.

The President was in Mindanao this week to inspect some government projects and to attend South Cotabato's anniversary celebration.

Teaching taxi drivers

For several weeks now, the local government has been sprucing up the city. Taxi drivers have been asked to memorize some English phrases including simple greetings.

Mayor Duterte met with taxi operators and instructed them to teach their drivers how to properly handle passengers, both local and foreign.

Julius Mahusay, 27, a taxi driver, said he posted a list of basic responses to the most common queries on his dashboard.

"I'll just try my very best to understand them (foreign visitors) and be understood," Eduardo Molma, another driver, said.

While taxi drivers were busy brushing up on their English, police authorities have been making the rounds of the city, trying to keep commercial sex workers, street children and mendicants out of sight.

Boncato said they were expecting at least 2,500 visitors and delegates to the event. Hotels in the city reported occupancy rates of 100 percent.

"Each of the 2,500 delegates is expected to spend \$90 per day for an average four-day-threenight-stay enabling the city to rake in about P500 million," Boncato said. Judy Quiros and Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

PET," she said.

She insisted that her election protest had proven that the 2004 vice presidential election was marred by massive cheating to benefit De

She said that since the first day of the recount, her lawyers and revisurs discovered that many election returns (ERs) used by Congress in canvassing the votes from Lanao del Sur did not match with the certified copies from the Commis-

In the absence of fraud, the originals and the copies of election returns for the same polling precincts should match one another



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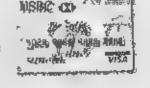
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AFP: Officer lack forced controversial appointment

By Alcuin Papa

THE ARMED PORCES OF THE PHIlippines (AFP) yesterday admitted it had no choice but to appoint controdersial Maj. Gen. Gabriel Habacon as head of the Southern Command (Southcom) due to the dearth of seof officials qualified for key posts in the military.

AFP Deputy Chief of Staff Lt. Gen. Samuel Bagasin told reporters this was the reason senior officials who were close to retiring, like Habacon, had to assume important positions like Southcom chief before leaving the service.

"If we don't appoint people like General Habecon, who among the officers who have had division commands can assume the Southcom position? We will run out [of officers]. So these are necessary transition decisions that I think the secretary of national defense and even the President tried to consider," Bagasin

The appointment of Habacon has been strongly criticized as reeking of "political payback" after his name came up in the "Hello Gard" wiretapping

the AFP said that around 56 generals were set to retire this year.

"By the time we retire in eight or nine months time, some people who are behind us should have gone through the necessary steps to take on higher positions (and) will have gone through division commands before they can take on positions in the unified commands," explained Bagasin, who hunself is retiring in September.

He said the appointment of soon-to-retire officials will provide a sort of transition for the younger officers.

The other day, Sen. Rodolfo Biszon, himself a former AFP chief of staff, objected to Habacon's designation as Southcom chief and Rear Admiral Tirso Danga's new assignment as Western Command (Wescom) chief.

Habacon's name was mentioned in the "Hello Garci" wiretapped recordings purportedly between President Macapagal-Arroyo and former Election Commissioner Virgilio Garcillano.

Critics said the conversations were proof of massive electoral cheating in the 2004 electrons.

At the time of the alleged wiretapping, Danga was chief of the Intelligence Bagasin, the third ranking officer in Service of the Armed Forces of the

Philippines (Isafp), which was said to be the source of the wiretapped recordings.

Habacon has demed involvement in rigging the elections while Danga said Isafp did not have the capability to conduct wiretapping operations.

Another officer mentioned in the "Hello Garci" tapes, Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon, was named Army commander in August 2005.

Habacur's appointment also raised eyebrows as he was perceived to have jumped over several more senior officers despite having only nine months left be-

His appointment came before the AFP's inspector General could release the findings of an internal probe it conducted to investigate the alleged role of military personnel in electoral fraud.

Southcom, the largest command in terms of area of coverage and troop deployment, is considered a prime assignment for serior generals.

Despite objections from lawmakers, Bagasin said the AFP leadership was standing by the integrity of Habacon

He said the two officers should be "presumed innocent" until proven guilty

Workers struggle to clean up oil spill

er Corp. barge ran aground causing a groves that are coated in oil, contamimassive oil spill in Barangay Semirare, Antique, workers are still strug- of bunker oil that spilled from the gling to save 226 hectares of mangroves which represent life or death for communities in the area.

The marine life that used to inhabit the area have died, according to the Philippine Coast Guard, Cleanup op-

nated with most of the 198,000 liters

we don't remove the oil, the man-ter the barge was brought to a shipgroves will die," said PCG spokesperson Commander Joseph Coyme. "We

A MONTH AFTER A NATIONAL POW- erations are now focused on the man-don't want that to happen because we know the communities depend on these mangroves for their liveli-

The PCG had initially reported that "We still expect to save the man- 162,000 liters of oll had leaked into groves, but we have to work fast. If the sea, but it amended the figure afyard and examined. Leila B. Salaver-



Seventuen years after eluding the military, renegade Zamboanga City policeman Rizal Alih arrived at the Ninoy Aguino International Airport yesterday, apparently after being deported by authorities in Malaysia where he had served eight years of a 14-year jail sentence for illegal possession of weapons. Alth had led a band of renegade policemen and soldiers in taking over the regional headquarters of the Philippine Constabulary in Zamboanga City in January 1989, taking hostage Brig. Gen. Eduardo Batalia, the regional commander. The camp burned down in a botched rescue operation in which 14 renegades and two hostages were killed. Allh surfaced in Malaysia in 1990s. There he was jalled until his release. Allh was escorted by five Malaysian police officers when he emerged from a Malaysian Airlines flight from Kuala Lumpur. Alih, now 60, was to be detained at Camp Crame where he faces multiple murder charges.

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4.	Condo/Unit 98 Washington Tower Aslaworld, Tambo (w/parking lot) Under lease*	FA - 333.2	8,996,400
5.	Condo/Unit 9C Washington Tower Asiaworld Tambo (w/parking lot) Under lease*	FA - 347.67	9,387,000
6.	Unit 502 Pacific Coast Plaza Coasta, Road (with 1 parking slot)	FA 172.69	2,500,000
7.	Unit 503 Pacific Coast Plaza Coastal Road (with 1 parking slot)	FA - 164.62	2,500,000
₿,	Townhouse/t, 1 ft 2, B2 Action Lane cor Banner St. cor Stet St., 4th Estate Subd., Brgy San Dionisio Under lease*	LA - 705 FA - 914.62	8,500,000
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DOLE: Plan on tap to maintain Pinoys' dominance of seas

By Jerome Aning

THE PHILIPPINES NEEDS TO IMprove its seamanship and maritime officer training courses and ing the trade if the country is to maintain its dominance in manning the world's shipping industry, Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia Sto. Tomas said yesterday.

Sto. Tomas said the President had ordered her to coordinate with the Commission on Higher Education and the Professional Regulation Commission in setting up a program that would strengthen the country's capability to supply the global maritime industry with adequately trained seamen and merchant marine of-

The global industry would need some 35,000 officers in the next five to 10 years, and the program she envisioned to meer that demand would include ways of enabling graduates of mechanical or electrical engineering courses to become maritime officers, Sto. Tomas said.

phasize the right academic technology degrees.

preparation and encourage seamen to work toward upgrading themselves to officer rank.

Last year, contracts processed for overseas Filipino seafarers entice more Filipinos into enter-reached 302,328-10,812 more than in 2004—showing "a robust preference and demand for their skuls in giobal shipping," Sto. Tomas said

The number comprised nearly one-third of the 981,337 overseas employment contracts processed in 2005 for both land- and sea-based overseas Filipino

Sto. Tomas said the international shipping industry's preference for Filipmo seamen, who comprise some 25 percent of the world's seafarers, was anchored on the Philippines' continuous efforts to ensure compliance with the International Maritime Organization's standards of training, cernfication and watch-keeping.

Earlier, the deputy chief of the Philippine Overseas Employment Administration, disclosed that the number of enrollees in marstime courses was dwindling, as more and more students were go-In general, the thrust will em- ing for nursing and information

Plinky Recto case judge asked to inhibit self

BACOLOD CITY-THE LAWYER hearing the case. of Marie Roxanne "Plinky" Recto on Thursday asked Bago Regional Trial Court Judge Henry Trocino to inhibit himself from the case filed against the television personality by her former live-in partner

Lawyer Rowena Guanzon, in her motion for prohibition, accused Trocino of "bad faith, malice, glaring partiality, gross ignorance of the law and blatant violanon of the rule of custody and the Anti-Violence against Women and their Children Act of 2004."

Trocino had granted temporary custody of Recto's 15-month-old child to her ex-lover, a prominent businessman from Negros Occidental.

The motion, which Guanzon filed before the Bago City RTC, asked Trocino to cancel the Oct. 18 pre-trial of the case filed by Recto's former lover for child cusrody, and instead hear her bid for the judge to inhibit himself from

Guanzon said Trocino issued a Temporary Protection Order (TPO) to Recto's former partner granting him custody of their child on Jan. 3 based on the Anti-

Guanzon said the law was supposed to protect women and children, but Trocino used it against "a woman and a mother."

"Thus we are tasked not only to protect Recto and her son but also [to protect] the Anti-VAWC from being used by the very same men against whom the law gives women the remedy on a Temporary and Permanent Protection Order, Guanzon said in the motion for inhibition

She pointed out that when Trocino acted on the pention of the former lover, Recto already had a pending case against him, which included a petition for custody of her child, before the Mandaluyong RTC. Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau



Assassins return to Abra with mayor's slay

By Artha Kira Paredes PD! Northern Luzon Bureau

"BANGUED, ABRA - ABRA'S PO-Little assassins had been silent " for more than a year until Frihoday night when they struck in a fown whose name means "peace," claiming their latest

Relatives of La Paz Mayor Marc Ysraei Bernos, who at 31 was the youngest mayor and most vocal opposition official in the province, blamed politics for the

Politically motivated

Our initial assessment is that the killing was politically moti-. vated and partly perhaps of vengeance," said former Abra Gov. Andres Bernos, the mayor's

Mayor Bernos was shot in said. the nape as he was watched a basketball game at the La Paz town plaza at 7 15 p m. on Fri-

A sports fan, Bernos had organized the basketball tournament as part of the celebration of the feast of the town's patroness, Our Lady of Peace, on

A conspiracy

The elder Bernos said the family suspected the killing was a conspiracy between two people "who had an ax to grind against my

"Witnesses who saw the suspect fleeing said he resembled a bodyguard of someone who had lost to Ysrael But 1

am not naming names," he

Bernos left behind three children aged 5, 3 and 1.

Abra leaders and Bernos' political opponents decried the murder and urged the police to solve it quickly.

Slaying condemned

Domingo Bernos, an uncle who ran for mayor against his naphew in 2001, condemned the

"I abhor what happened to my nephew. He was, after all, a very close relative, my brother's son. I could not even finish eating last night when I received a text message informing me that he was already dead," Domingo said.

"While it is true that we were

political adversaries, politics is ion. politics and all we ever had were word wars, war of words," he

Unknown motives

Abra police director Senior Supt. Marcelo Manalo said the police were looking into mouves for the killing.

"We are not yet sure of the 3rd mayor killed [motive] We are still focusing on [various] angles," Manalo told

He said police recovered a 45cal pistol and M-16 Armalite rifle shells at the town plaza, a few meters from where Bernos was

The gunman was described as between 25 and 35 years old, about five feet, four inches in height, thin with a dark complex-

He reportedly had a companion who fired the Armante to create a distraction after Bernos was

Bernos had once told the laowner a PS million bounty had been placed on his head by his en-

killed in the last four years.

In 2002, Tineg Mayor Clarence Benwaren, a friend of Bernos', was gurined down in a church in Calauan, Laguna. In 2001, Tubo Mayor Jose Segundo was killed by suspected NPA rebels in his Bureau

A law enforcement task force has been providing security in Abra since 2004 after Interior Secretary Angelo Reyes withdrew all the posternen assigned to the

Cops moonlighting

Many cops, investigation showed, had been moonlighting He was the third Abra mayor as members of the private armies of local polincians who were believed behind many of the killings in the province. A few of the policemen have since been reinstat-With a report from Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon

GMA has not junked peace talks with Reds, says Palace adviser

LUCENA CTTY - AN OFFICIAL IN the Office of the Presidential Adviser on the Peace Process (OPAPP) has refuted the claim made by a top Army officer that President Macapaga.-Arroyo had abandoned the peace negotiations with the communist insur-

"That's not true as President Arroyo will never abandon the peace process," said Rolly Asun-cion, Director IV-Peace Institutions Development Office under the OPAPP during the Youth Aid Peace Leaders seminar held here yesterday.

Asuncion said Malacafiang had even expressed optimism the mformal round of negotiations with the communist National Democratic Front would resume in March.

Early resumption

He said Oslo had been doing its best to get the government and NDF peace panels together for a possible early resumption of the peace talks. Norway had hosted the first part of the

Hermogenes Esperon said the President had ruled out resuming the stalled peace talks with the communist rebels, a signal that the government and the comthe government was focused on eliminating the long-term security threat posed by the rebels by using the full force of the military against them.

Esperon cited as a reason for the President's decision the New People's Army rebeis taking advantage of the government's grant of security and unmunity reas

guarantees to them by conducting propaganda and organizing

Asuncion said Esperon could have been "misquoted" in the news report.

He said the general might have also misunderstood President Arroyo's statement.

Several youth participants in the peace seminar voiced their opposition to the scrapping of the peace talks.

Youth fed up

"The NDF and the government should resume the peace talks and wage their battle at the negotiation table. The country's youth are now fed up with this senseless war," said Mark Oliver Jalimao, spokesperson of the Quezon Youth Development

For Eric de la Peña, chair of Montalban Youth Foundation based in Rizal province, Esperon's statement was part of the multary's "psywar tactics" against the communist guerril

"But that is an ominous sign," On Friday, Army chief Gen. he told his fellow youth partici-

The seminar participants vowed to continue to pressure munist rebels to give the peace negotiations another

"We don't need war. What this country needs is freedom from hunger, fear, exclusion and humiliation," one of the youths said Delfin T. Mollari Jr, PDI Southern Luson Bu-

Politics eyed in La Union Comelec official's slay

By Alcuin Papa

POLICE SUSPECT POLITICS AS the likely motive for the killing of an official of the Commission on Elections (Comelec) in La Union on Thursday.

Philippine National Police Director General Arturo Lomibao said Filemon Asperan Jr.'s work as a Come.ec official in Agoo, La Union, might have led to his assassination

But Lomibao said that police investigators were also looking at other angles.

"We will seriously look into the angle of politics as a motive because as a Come.ec official, his work was election-related and political in nature. However, we will also look at other angles," Lomibao said in a statement yes-

Unidentified gunman

Asperin was shot by an unidentified gunman in front of the Comelec office in Central East, Banang, La Union on Jan.

Initial investigation showed he was about to board a van ized." when he was shot in the head by one of two suspects on a motorcycle After the shooting, the two suspects sped away.

Lomibao said he had ordered the creation of a task force to in-

vestigate the killing. The task force is composed of elements from the Criminal investigation and Detection Group (CIDG), the Intelligence Group (IG), the PNP Crime Laboratory and the La Union PNR

Yesterday, Lomibao visited the wake for Asperin at his residence

in Agoo. He assured the victim's family the task force would "leave no stone unturned" in its investiga-

The PNP chief also noted that there have been "previous killings in La Union that remained ansolved and informanon had been going around pointing to politics as being behand the killings."

Witnesses afraid

Lomibao said witnesses to the crime were afraid to come out to testify Nonetheless, he designated Chief Supt. Pete Tango, officer in charge of the CIDG is to "get to the bottom of these cases and spare no one who are involved no matter how high or low they are in stature.

Lomiban also said he had directed the PNP Region 1 office, the La Union police, the CIDG and the IG "to conduct an aggressive manhunt until every single killer was arrested and neutral-

He appointed Deputy Director General Avelmo Razon, PNP Deputy Chief for Operations, to oversee the man-

"We appeal to concerned citizens to come out in the open and help us put an end to these senseless killings, if indeed politics is the motive, the next elections are still far and how many more people will be killed or sacrificed," Lomibao said.



TRI-ISYS INTERNET GARNERED AWARDS AS LEADING INTERNET SERVICE PROVIDER

2005 proved to be a great year for Tri-Isys Internet, makers of ISPx Bonanza Prepaid Internet card and Powersurf Postpaid Plan. Their products received two of the most prestigious awards given to local companies. These are the Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards and National Shoppers' Choice Awards. The Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards (PMEA) cited ISPx Bonanza as the Most Outstanding Prepaid Internet Card in Metro Manila. The PMEA is composed of Philippine Marketing Excellence Awards Institute, Asian Institute of Marketing and Entrepreneurship together with Marketing insights Magazine. It recognizes ISPx Bonanza's "outstanding marketing performances leading towards market dominance, goodwill, high-level customer confidence and market acceptability. The awards night was held last November 14 at the Westin Philippine Plaza Hotel. President Gloria Macapagal Arroya's congratulates all awardees with this message, "thus year's awardees have shown us how to excel in a highly competitive environment. They have been successful in establishing market presence and high customer confidence...which in turn benefited consumers in terms of better quality products at the best price possible."

The 2005 National Shoppers' Choice Annual Awards (NSCAA) gave recognition to Trilsys Powersurf as Number 1 Postpaid Internet in the Metro category. Now on its 3" year, the NSCAA pays tribute to the most outstanding brands and companies in the country. It is conferred by the Asia Pacific Shoppers' Choice Institute, Shoppers' Choice Magazine, Essence Privilege Card, Hernz KPMR Marketing Inc. and the Asian-Philippine Association of Marketing Professionals. Chairman of the NSCAA Atty. Manuel Oyson has this to say, "It is with utmost pride that we continue to honor and recognize the hest businesses today ... a celebration of excellence. A tribute to all of you who have won the hearts of your customers." Each year, the award giving body aims to motivate the recognized companies by continuing to raise the bar of excellence for the consumers' benefit.

This year, Tri-Isys Internet will usher in new value-added services to cater to the various technological needs of its market. Affordable pricing and reliable service will still be the commitment of the company to its increasing subscriber base. Being the industry leader poses a challenge to develop more opportunities for growth and introduce quality. innovations. As part of our social responsibility, we are going to support He Cares Foundation by giving away computer units for less fortunate children. Tri-isys will remain steadfast in its pursuit of dedicated excellence and salutes all its consumers for their trust and loyalty.





ASEAN TOURISM FORUM

January 13 - 21, 2006 Davao City Philippines

Message





h to welcome all the participants of the ASEAN Therison Ferian 2004 to title

que his city of Davido, Philosophies

the sigh to exhibit my inflatations to the organizates of Dia Porpoi, the Department of pm, Painporte Constation and Visitora Corporation, local government and preste r of Coven Cev

The therms for this year's ASEAN Racism Februar, "Calabosing the Many Focus of ASEAN" apply describes ASEAN. It is a conceptive brevia for the gried and chi deposity in lares, forms integrating an implicit, belong and cockies. Occasivy in quitare and destroyed has provided ASEAN as competitive easie in inertain.

ASSEMEN describy is just one of its more leasts. There is also the important discussion of a constantly striked by a common represent to altim should conser and stability and phonon prosperity for the region and people, also brown as ASEASE Value 2009. Constitues with the value is the gold of evolving an integrated. pascalal and many ASEAN Community The Versions Action Program (2004-2014), in its readings, his identified lourism as one of the primity settless for economic selegration

The lowest sector has in most years hand political and linearist dualization, health cross and natural

ductions. But these challenges leavy also brought to fore another dimension of ASEAN, trust of an activing and committed examples working in salderity to editors. Do notify challenges of the region in this.

ASEAN interest will continue to face many many challenges. Sat with effects each as this Forum, to feelbate for any and enhanced exoperation in leasure, I am operated much SEAN content will continue to play a visit offer as the economic growth and development of the ASEAN Content of a

Mahuhay tayong tahati

Glora augo Republic of the Philippines

Message





with profound physics that welcome of paranopsets of the ASEAN TOURSM CORUMA (ATT) in expise Davise City. Philippoint I also with its covered by warmed exceeding to the organises from both the government and our provinc suctor actions, as well as the people of Contra Cay for fast unitaring affect in making line event a make, it is in the representation depay of collectment and study that we see a recorporate of II serve of cantourly and rayest suspensibily that insure success in every undersying

mile that apportunity to seprace qualified to the government of blyateness for gradiently busing over in the Philippiness the Instang of ASF 2006, thousby assume the properations of the tricats and goods that ATF plants for As bivernor apply put it, it is about absorptioning passwerings lovered passes, prospersy and programs' swomp are 10 intention countries. Today will proudly come togethat as one specific accountry working to studie a countrie gold of it, abong and protective ASEAM.

As we go stook our prospective beposted at the ATE we way confident that ASEAN's eigh showcase of directs cultured bloom by its collective communicies—tick reprisings, busine maturel endormelia and septrotesiant decomposes and inscribing people -- sell be supplessible by our intermediate flavour horse money framed distributes the programmy framewith offerings think transmits angle recommendate

As we "colobrate the many faces, of ASSAM" to Cover Coly, a is my external before that averaged administration business opportunities in this year's galleding, and in the process, dispersion how the Professional and the whole of ASEAN have everyth and developed over the years of learns of students. demonstrate. Savet incomes and services for the granal companyly to enjoy

Mich

JOSEPH H DURANO Secretary Prospore Department of Youther.
Chartener, ATF 2006 Professors Host Committee

Massage





the weakcome year to Dawner, it intelling pot of diverse integrant must independ a peoples. took bullimes are moved into a sich separaty of attract and explanations libraryles. contested in ter, becaring custons sound and factories.

Cores of the Principles "City in filtroom" bloosed with a bounty of natural gibs ranging from furth dust plantations, losh drama learns respects reductors surgest, pricates plant band beaution to a busing private combe where magein conveniences we within assets

in thes. Here of the country's most immuned notices game are bound in Cereso, making the rount see

destruction. The sity ties, the beat account to the country's highest peak, the Album Ago that is the expens habited of our national and and second largest eagler the worts, the Philippers Eagle, and national flows, stornoyer our nity total gride in being recognised an erre of the claims. and greened in the celebry as well as forward the second bent possible water in the world. We more covered non-of-tim most liveate other in Arm by America II. Alter the product of the compatible to do be assume to, the transference by the Assum by America III.

tioragement in without, we are prologica that our first integrated Europeany Response Phrispat embers we and of pay these areas in the world other the US and assets to account with an efficient paragraphic that abbunst, securely in the city that now origins only of the lowest came rates to the social Sharmado se smo late preie se sut nomal "Kurtiyanen Festival" die biggest duringvag for a boerbid."

harvest had in August where sivers cancerg, flout loat participated and showcase of indigenous peoples tables are inglisphare. That we except finality never loads to give visiteds are adulated an existencing expensive which how way state exhibitations to the exporting and a nastral execut me praise becausing the form

Indeed, we say happy to host the 2008 ASEAN Towner Foremand we trade you to discover Dayso City during your stay with we

Gover Dayon Davido City Charmon, ATF 2006 Davido Heat Council veo takes pride in hosting the Assen Tourism Forum welcoming an estimated 3000 foreign delegal

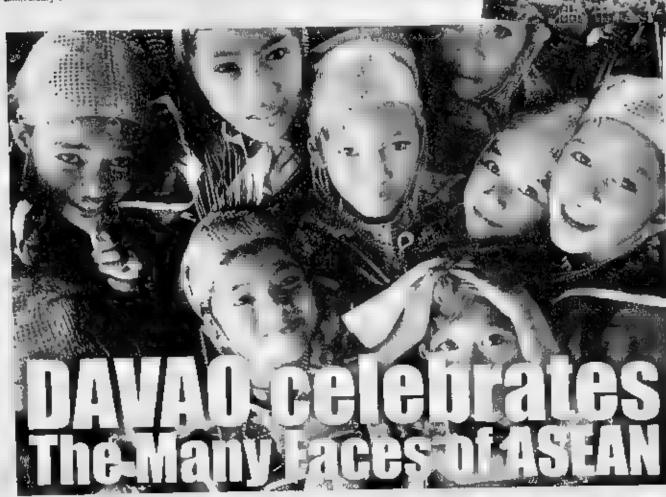
The Many Faces of ASEAN brings into parapactive the strides the multifaceted organisation has intilated in bringing to life the principle of Unity in Diversity is constant pursuit of cohesive and cooperative regional progress.

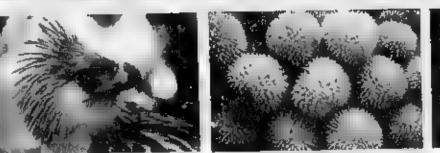
Despite the volatility of ASEAN tourism tramendously threatened by several challenges in recent years, the ties of solidarity that bind the people of the 10 ASEAN member-countries have slood firm in the commitment to enhance mutual cooperation and support as a unified ASEAN region.

ATF 2005 Daviso City, Philippines, ushers in the opportunities to integrate and explore the myriad resources that the region is distinctively endowed with Strengthening the Many Faces of ASEAN calls for government and private sector participation to reconcite national and regional tourism lasues and concerns. The time has come to forge attainable and sustainable ASEAN tourism policies and priorities on product development, packaging, marketing of emerging destinations, and promotion of seamless travel within the region. ASEAN's tourism communications machinery should be honed to effectively transmit to the international community objective situations in the region.

As we head on to the ATF Travel Exchange (TRAVEX), the 10 member-countries will offer an array of competitive products and services to the international markets by focusing on the Marry Faces of ASEAN.

Now more then ever, as we embrace the challenges of the future, we need to hold hands and meet the world In Celebrating the Many Faces of ASEAN as we welcome officials, delegates, and friends to the silver anniversery of the ASEAN Tourism Forum in Daveo City.













Zawahiri killed in Pakistan air strike?

18 people killed as US drone hits border village

ISLAMABAD-PAKISTAN IS INvestigating whether al-Qaida deputy leader Ayman al-Zawahiri was killed in a deadly US air strike on a village near the Afghan border, Pakistani and US officials said Saturday.

US Central Intelligence Agency sources said they had unconfirmed indications that a high-level target, possibly Osama bin Laden's Egyptian number two and chief ideologue, was killed by a US Predator drone in Pakistan.

"We are investigating and as of now we are not in a position to say yes or no," Maj. Gen. Shaukat Sultan, the spokesperson for President Pervez Musharraf and for Pakistan's military, said when asked to confirm whether Zawahiri was killed in the strike

"The investigation is going on as to what happened there," Pakistani Information Minster Sheikh Rashid said, without elaborating. He refused to comment on whether Zawahin may have been involved

At least 18 people including women and children died when missiles hit the village of Damadola, part of Mamund town in northwestern Pakistan's restive Bajur tribal region bordering Afghamstan early Friday, residents

Interior Minister Aftab Sherpeo said a number of the dead appeared to be foreigners with suspected terror links.

"It seems there were some people who were not locals and they were possibly in-



OSAMA bin Laden, right, listens as his top deputy Ayman al-Zawahiri speaks at an undisclosed location in this image from an Al-Jazzera broadcast on April 15, 2002.

volved in subotage activities. Most of the bodses were charred," Sherpao told AFP

"Bur we have no information about Zawahiri. We are investigating what caused the

US intelligence sources told AFP here that the CIA had indications that a top al-Qaida operative-maybe Zawahiri-might have died in an attack by a remotely-piloted US

The CIA has indications that a high-level al-Qaida operative was killed by a Predator strike in Bajue. They are confirming an operation in Bajur," one of the sources told AFP on condition of anonymity.

They say the strike may have killed Za-

The US Defense Department denied that the US military had carried out any attacks in the area. "There is no reason to believe the US military is conducting operations there," said Lt. Col. Todd Victari.

Villagers in Damadola said they heard aircraft or helicopters before the strike and that the only victims were local people

The target was a cluster of three houses owned by a jewelier named Abdul Ghafoor, whose relatives were among the victums, residept Waheed Gul said by telephone

"According to our information there were no foreigners among the 18 who were martyred in the attack," Gul said.

Al-Qaida No. 2 the brains bebind Osama bin Laden

ISLAMABAD-DOCTOR AND SURgeon Ayman al-Zawahiri is the brains behind Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida network and most recently its public face, repeatedly denouncing the United States and its allies in widely aired video mes-

Bespectacled, with grey hair and a grey beard, the Egyptian doctor in his mid-50s as second after Bin Laden on the FBI's list of "most wanted terrorists."

Both men have a price of up to mosques in the Muslim world \$25 million on their heads.

They eluded capture when USled forces toppled Afghanistan's Taliban government in late 2001 after al-Qaida's Sept. 11 attacks on

Zawahiri has appeared in a series of video or audio messages in the past year, criticizing the US war in Iraq, praising the Taliban and the July 7 London bombers and also arging Muslims to help victims of Pakistan's Oct. 8 earthquake

In the most recent video, broadcust by Arabic television station Al Jazeera on Jan. 6, Zawahin said US President George W. Bush's plan to withdraw troops from Iraq meant Washington had been defeated by the Muslims.

Analysts have described Zawahiri as al-Qaida's chief organizer and Bin Laden's closest mentor. "Ayman is for Bin Laden like the brain to the body," said Montasser al-Zayat, a lawyer in Cairo who once represented Zawahiri.

Zawahiri and Bin Laden met in the mid-1980s when both were in the Pakistani city of Peshawar to support guerrillas fighting the Soviets in Afghanistan, and worked closely thereafter. But the alliance was not Zawahiri's first foray into militancy

Borny in 1951 to a prominent Cairo family, he was the son of a pharmacology professor and grandson of the grand imam of Al Azhar, one of the most important

He graduated from Egypt's most prestigious medical school in 1974 and did a second degree in surgery. By then he was involved with the Muslim Brotherhood, a nonviolent group seeking the creation of a single Islamic state

When the militant Egyptian Islamic Jihad was founded in 1973, he joined. When members posed as soldsers and assassinated President Anwar Sadat in 1981, he was among 301 people arrested

He went on trial but was cleared. He did, though, spend three years in jail for having an unacensed pistol. On his release, Zawahiri made his way to Pakistan where he worked with the Red Crescent treating fighters wounded in the Afghan war.

Taking over the leadership of Jihad in Egypt in 1993, he was a key figure in a campaign in the mid-1990s to set up a purist Islamic state there, in which more than 1,200 Egyptians died.

Bush says Iran would be threat to world if it has nuke weapons

WASHINGTON-PRESIDENT GEORGE W. Iran armed with a nuclear weapon poses a that he wanted a diplomatic solution to the

Speaking after talks with German Chancelor Angela Merkel, Bush said that the United States and its European allies believed a nuclear armed fran was "unacceptable" and that seems to me would make them a step closer to going to the UN Security Council would be the "logical" next step.

"The reason it's unacceptable is because

Bush said Friday that Iran would be a threat grave threat to the security of the world," to the world if it had a nuclear weapon but Bush to.d a press conference. He highlighted how Iran's President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has called for the decrisis with the Islamic Republic struction of Israel. "And that's unacceptable,"

declared the US leader "And the development of a nuclear weapon

achieving that objective." Highlighting the new rapprochement in German-US ties, Merkel said Western countries "will not be intimidated" by Iran's deci-

sion to resume sensitive nuclear research Germany, Britain and France have led efforts over the past two years to negotiate with Iran over its nuclear program, which the European ailies and the United States believe is

intended to produce a nuclear weapon. Ahmadinejad said Friday that Iran will not back down from its nuclear program, which his country insists is peaceful.

Representatives of the European Union, United States, China and Russia are to hold talks on Iran in London on Monday. They are expected to set a date for a meeting of the lpternational Atomic Energy Agency, which could refer the case to the UN Security Coun-

Bush made no mention of any possible sanctions and stressed the need to search for a diplomatic solution.

The US president said that he and Merkel spent some time talking about the Iranian issue and the desire to solve this issue diplomatically---by working together."

Bush said he would not "prejudge what the United Nations Security Council should do" and also emphasized the multilateral stance that has also been stressed by Secretary of have been kidnapped by the CIA State Condoleezza Rice.

Prober: Europe complicit in CIA 'dirty work'

Swiss investigator said on Friday said he was tortured. European governments had been complicit in illegal GIA activities in the "war on terror," after reports that the Americans ran secret prisons in Europe

Swiss Sen, Dick Marty, investigating the allegations for the 46nation rights group Council of Europe, said he was personally convinced of the existence of the detention centers but had yet to come up with concrete proof.

"It's not possible to transport people from one place to another in such a manner without the secret services knowing about it," he said. "What was shocking was the passivity with which we all, in Europe, have welcomed these things."

Marty is to present a preliminary report to the parliamentary assembly of the Council of Europe on Jan. 23 over reports the Americans ran centers in eastern Europe where suspects where interrogated, tortured or transported to other countries in a process Washington calls "rendi-

"Europeans should be less hypocritical and not turn a blind eye," he said at a news briefing. "There are those who do the dirty work abroad but there are also those who know when they should close their eyes when that dirty work is being done."

Marry referred to the case of an Egyptian cleric alleged to in Milan in 2003 and transported

BURGDORE SWITZERLAND-A to Egypt, where the man later

A Mhan court last month itsued a European arrest warrant for 22 CIA agents suspected of involvement in the case. Italy's government has strongly denied knowledge of the operation

The Milan case is one of se al investigations into whether US agents used Europe to illegally transfer militant suspects to third countries for interroga-

"The proof is completely clear and the CIA has never-denied it." Marty said

Romania, Poland and others have denied they let the United States hold terrorism suspects on their territory. The US government has neither denied nor confirmed the reports of secret jails, first made by the Washington Post in November

"This is not just a problem for Romania and Poland," Marty said. "It's not acceptable to criminalize these two countries.

"It's all Europe which has been willingly silent on the matter."

Marty said he was convinced of the existence of secret US detention centers in Europe. But his investigation would probably not be completed for another 12 months as he seeks more evi-

"It's not like Guantanamo Bay," he said, but more like "empty rooms where people have been interrogated or tortured or taken somewhere else."

LOU RAWLS STILLED Ninz Rawls, widow of singer Lou Rawls, at the funeral of her late husband in Los Angeles Jan. 13. Rawls, whose unique voice was stilled by cancer on Jan. 4, will be remembered as a talented and confident performer who succeeded on many levels, not only in the range of songs he performed, but in the many ways he helped others.

Don't wait to blow whistle, says Ellsberg, who leaked Pentagon Papers

By Linda Deutsch

PALM DESERT, CALIFORnia-Daniel Elisberg, who leaked the Pentagon Papers 35 years ago, said Priday that whistleblowers shouldn't be afraid to reveal government secrets in an effort to save people's lives, even if it means going to jail

IRANIAN men at Friday prayers at Tehran

University, Jan. 13 in Tehran.

"Don't do what I did," Elisbera said. "Don't wait until the bombs are falling in Iran. Don't wait until people are dying. Go to the

press and reveal. Elishery told the American Bar Association's Forum on Communications law that he waited nearly two years before handing over the top secret study of the Vietnam War td The New York Times in 1971.

advising others planning to leak materials to "take your risks and go to prison if it means saving

He compared the Pentagon Papers revelations to the recent New York Times disclosures that President Bush had authorized wiretapping the phone conversations of US citizens without court authorization. He also noted that the Times has acknowledged holding that story for a year at the White House's request.

In an interview following his talk, Elisberg said he believes that by withholding the story the Times played a role in Bush's re-

election. "We had a lawbreaking presi-

"I wasted 22 months," he said, dent here and they helped to reelect him," he said.

He added, however, that it was fortuitous the story appeared before a congressional vote on extending the Patriot Act, adding the Times should be commended for that. The act was temporarily extended until next month while debate on it continues.

Elisberg shared the stage at the gathering of some 250 First Amendment lawyers with other players in the Pentagon Papers drama, including former New York Times executive editor Max Frankel and former Times attorney James C. Goodale. They gave vivid recollections of key decisions that shaped the historical

Frankel said Goodule .mmediately feared the government would seek an injunction claiming national security dangers, which it did.

Asked about his newspaper's concerns about exposing a secret government report, Frankel, then the Times Washington bureau chief, said he was more concerned about the consequences of not publishing

"The frame of mind of people at my level was, Tr's a hot story and how do we get it out and damn the consequences," he said. "The first instinct and the last instinct is to get it out.

"What you Judge are what are the consequences of not publishing," he continued. "What hap-

you had it and you didn't publish

Goodale said he did some quick legal research, determined there was no law against leaking and that Elisberg's actions did not fall under espionage statutes. While he at first urged caution, he sand that his attitude changed after reading the Pentagon Papers.

"I got so darned angry at the documents and the history that I decided they had to be published," he said.

He added that there was so little legal precedent on the issue that, "I felt rather certain that the government didn't know what it was doing."

Ellsberg's case was dismissed

pens when your readers find out because of government misconduct after it was disclosed that a group working for the White House had broken into his psychiatrist's office in an attempt to gain information it could use to embarrass him.

Shortly after Friday's panel discussion, Ellsberg learned that the judge who dismissed the charges, William Matthew Byrne Jr., had died Thursday at age 75.

"His dismissal of all charges against Tony Russo and myself with the eloquent denunctation of government misconduct, in which he said it offends a sense of justice, gave my wife and me one of the best days of our lives," Elisberg told The Associated Press.

Saudi gov't, pilgrims blame

each other for deadly crush

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JAPAN \$390 SINGAPORE \$
LAX / SFO \$595 K LUMPUR \$
EUROPE \$640 BANGKOK \$
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SPEECHPOWER

MECCA, SAUDI ARABIA-SAUDI ARABIA no documents and Pakistan's blamed unruly pilgrims on Priday for the crush that killed 363 people during the haji, but many Muslims said better security could have averted the worst disaster to befall the rite in 16 years. even more difficult. The pilgrims were crushed on the last day

of the half on Thursday at the disaster-prone Jamarat Bridge in Mens, a narrow valley near the holy city of Mecca, as they jostied to perform a stoning ritual in the early afternoon.

The legitimacy of Saudi Arabia's ruling house rests in the eyes of many Muslims on its ability to host some 2.5 million hajj plignins from all over the world every year.

The kingdom's top cleric, Grand Mufti Sheikh Abdulaziz al-Sheikh said, accused pilgrims of being disorderly and senior officials said many had defied the rules by carrying their baggage with them and ignoring advice to stagger the rituals through the day.

"It pains us that so many people died, but we must point out that the security forces averted many more disasters from happening and saved many lives," the state news agency SPA quoted Interior Minister Prince Nayef bin Abdul-Aziz as saying.

Health ministry spokesperson Khaled ai-Mirgha am put the final death toll at 363, revising an earlier figure of 362. He said 45 re-mained in hospital but with only slight in-

An interior ministry spokesperson said the bodies identified so far included 44 Indians, 37 Pakistanis and 28 Saudis and the authorities were still trying to determine the nationalities of about half of the dead.

The initial figures included victims from 23 other countries and both Indonesia and the United Arab Emirates said their citizens were among the dead and wounded.

In conditions of severe overcrowding, pilgrims carrying belongings broke through a security cordon, ministry spokesperson Mansour al-Turki said.

There were groups of security men in the crowd, "but often the mass and force is too much and they effectively disappear," he said

"We had more than 600,000 pugrims trying to leave Mena at the same time. Special forces immediateley responded to the incident," he said, adding around 18 security men were in-

Turki said many of the dead were carrying

9/11 workers die of health problems

NEW YORK-JAMES ZADROGA SPENT 16 hours a day toiling in the World Trade Center runs for a month, breathing in debris choked air Timothy Keller said he coughed up bits of gravel from his lungs after the towers fe.l on Sept. 11, 2001 Felix Hernandez spent days at the site helping to search for victims.

All three men died in the last seven months of what their families and colleagues say are persistent respiratory illnesses d.rectly caused by their work at ground zero.

While thousands of people who either worked at or lived near the site have reported ailments like the "trade center cough" since the terrorist attacks, some say that only now are the consequences of working at the site becoming heartbreakingly clear.

Some officials say it's too early to draw that conclusion. Doctors running different health screening programs say it will take decades to get a clear picture of the long-term health effects of working at

ground zero. The city department of Health and Mental Hygiene, which is tracking the health of 71,000 people exposed to Sept. 11 dust and debris, said this week that it is too soon to say whether any deaths or illnesses among its enrolled members are linked to trade center expo-

But Robin Herbert, who directs a medical-monitoring program at Mount Sinai Medical Center for more than 14,000 ground zero workers, said "certainly it is not inconceivable" that a person could die of respiratory disease related to Sept. Minister for Religious Affairs Mohammad Ejaz ul Haq said many bodies had been disfigured, making the task of identifying them

Some survivors said they had trampled upon people before falling on top of the human mass

Many pilgrims maist on following Prophet Mohammad's examinstead of staggering the ritual throughout the day as some clerics recommend. Saudi clerics who follow the strict Walthabi branch of Sunni Islam have in the past advised stoning after noon.

ple of stoning after noon prayers

However, some pilgrims said the authorines had falled to impose their own rules on the ritual, which has seen similar deadly stampedes in the past. Reuters

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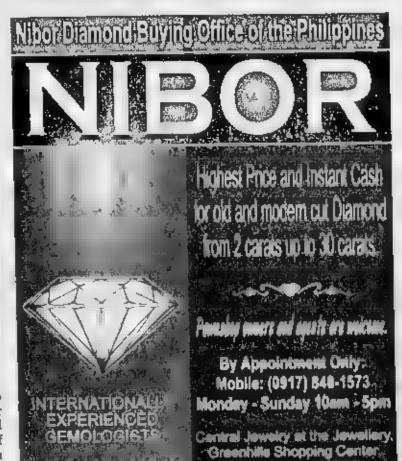
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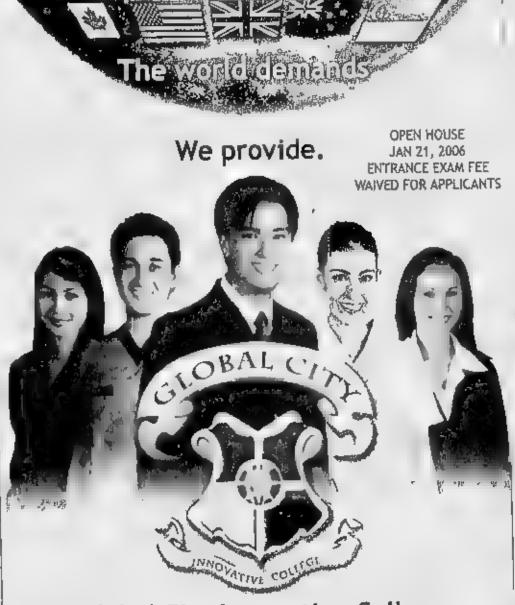
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Cloudy

HE INTRAMURALS IN THE RULING LAKAS PARTY assume that the Constitution will be amended this year. The so-called war of the photo-ops aside, the various conflicting positions held by Lakas party leaders assume either (a) a complacent Senate or (b) a compliant Supreme Court. Well, the party assumes wrongly.

Ex-president Fidel Ramos' West Point formula—the long gray line ends, at least for Presi-EDITORIAL dent Macapagal-Arroyo, in June 2007-assumes that a new Constitu-

tion will be in place by then. Speaker Jose de Venecia's French plan-French, as in Tour de France, with the President wearing the winner's jersey for a few more laps after June 2007—assumes the very same thing.

But (here's a quick refresher, for the Lakas party faithful), the House of Representatives alone cannot amend the Constitution. At the start of the so-called great debate on Charter change, many administration congressmen were extolling the joys of ambiguity: The pertinent provision in the Constitution (Article XVII, Section 1) reads: "Any amendment to, or revision of, this Constitution may be proposed by: (1) The Congress, upon a vote of threefourths of all its Members; or (2) A constitutional conven-

The absence of any qualifier on that "three-fourths" vote quickened the pulse of pro-amendment congressmen; they thought that this meant the two chambers of Congress voting jointly. If that were the case, the island of anti-amendment senators would be swamped by a sea of representatives voting pro. But surely that was a mistaken interpretation: Amending the Constitution is as serious as, say, declaring a state of war, and yet in Article VI, Section 23 the qualification of the two chambers "voting separately" is explicit.

Today, we can still find a congressman or two who would swear by that mistaken reading, but the battleground has already shifted, from the preferred mode of converting the legislature into a Constituent Assembly, to the people's initiative.

The people's mitiative is an innovation in direct democracy introduced in 1987 (Article XVII, Section 2): "Amendments to this Constitution may likewise be directly proposed by the people through initiative upon a petition of at least twelve per centum of the total number of registered voters, of which every legislative district must be represented by at least three per centum of the registered voters therein."

The other day, another newspaper quoted Eastern Samar Gov. Ben Evardone, spokesperson for the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, holding forth on Charter change at some length. "Ulap is supporting both constitutional assembly and constitutional convention. But the problem is, the assembly will not pass in the Senate. That's why we are also pushing for the people's mutia-

Politically, this is a viable enterprise: given last year's statistics, 12 percent of all registered voters means only some 5.2 million signatures. (Of course, an especially recalcitrant legislative district can block the entire mitiative, by limiting the yes votes to less than 3 percent.)

But Ulap's game plan already assumes that the initiative will be challenged before the Supreme Court, again. And Evardone's reading is not even remotely legal, but rankly political. "Those judges who voted against people's initiative are all retired now. Of the five who voted for it, two are still active. We think it is about time that the issue is revisited. Once we gather the needed 12 percent of signatures nationwide in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution, I think the judges could not just set aside this overwhelming decision of the people."

In sum: "I think the final arbiter will be the Supreme Court."

What he means is that he and other pro-amendment local executives think that the final arbiter will be a high court cowed by political considerations. But the reason the Supreme Court struck down previous attempts at a people's initiative was simple: Congress, contrary to an express constitutional requirement, had failed to pass an enabling law. To date, there is still no enabling law.

Evardone thinks that is a mere detail, something that is of no moment to the one branch of government required to be non-political. We think he assumes wrongly.



Who will run it?

A SOCIETY OF LAWYERS RECENTLY INVITED me to speak on the presidential system against another speaker who would defend the parliamentary system. I declined, pleading another appointment but I had a better reason.

My reason was that I have not at this point made a choice between the two systems, assurning such choice is necessary. In 1994, while I was still a member of the Supreme Court, I delivered before the Manila Overseas Press Club a speech entitled "Presidential or Parliamentary?" It was based on an extensive research on the popularity of the two forms of government which showed that the two were more or less evenly distributed.

Seated beside me at the head table was then Vice President Joseph Estrada, who was practically the guest of honor. That was the first time we met, and I remember him telling me by way of a cordial introduction that his father and mine were close friends, Dr. Emilio Ejercito was the chief medical officer of Manila and Vicente G. Cruz was a member of its Municipal Board when it was still prestigious. The two of them usually had lunch together at the City

I sensed that the audience had not yet decided at that time on the choice between the presidential and the parliamentary systems as the topic had not yet aroused much public attention, unlike now. At the open forum that followed my address, many of the questions raised dwelt on the merits of the two systems and were mostly addressed to Estrada.

The Vice President was then already preparing to run for the top office and was naturally in favor of the presidential system. A substantial number in the audience-and in the country at large, I suppose-were for maintaining the presidential system and were looking forward to Estrada heading it. Their decision was based not so much on the advantages of the

SEPARATE OPINION

Isagani A. Cruz

present system but on the expectation that Estrada would be the next President of the Philippines

The debate between the two forms of government has ceased to be merely academic as during the time I made that speech. Now it has become political and mostly motivated by politicians with personal schemes and ambitions. Estrada at that time did not show much interest in the debate because he was already being regarded as a shoo-in at the 1998 presidential election. But now the advocates of the parliamentary system are seriously working for its adoption as the best way for their politi-

There is talk even now that President Macapagal-Arroyo, former President Fidel V. Ramos, and Speaker Jose de Venecia are hoping to be the top bananas in the parliamentary government they are advocating. GMA, it is conjecred, intends to remain as President, to retain power and recoup her lost prestige Ramos and De Venecia are both reportedly aiming to be prime minister, the former to exercise the dominance he used to enjoy that the latter could not win as a presidential aspirant.

De Venecia apparently feels that he can enter Malacañang through the back door with the support of his Rainbow Coalition. The electorate in general will not have the power to directly choose the high officials of the government; it is only the members of the parliament who can do this, and they are more easily per-

suaded by fair means or foul. This convenience was demonstrated when the House of Representatives easily quashed the attempts to impeach Luz Tancangeo of the Commission on Elections and even President Arroyo despite the serious charges against them.

The proponents of the parliamentary system argue that such anomalies cannot happen because the prime minister can be easily ousted by the legislators without the present cumbersome process of impeachment. Under the presidential system, an impeachable official can continue serving up to the end of his term with the connivance of Congress even against the will of the electorate. The flaw in this comparison is the unlikely premise that the future Parliament will, unlike the present Congress, be

The argument that the parliamentary system will solve all the problems of the presidential system is a foolish myth. Whatever system we adopt, it will remain rotten as long as it is run by the same rotten political leadership we have at present. The Pollyanna hope that the change of the present system will cleanse it of all its sordidness conceals the selfish purposes of those who would inflict upon the nation an other huge deception

The solution to our present difficulties is not a change of government but a change of leadership. If the proposed parliamentary system will be controlled by the same politicians running the present presidential system, we will be riding on a different ship of state but still bound for the same perdition. Our imperative need is not a change of the Constitution, such as it is, but the education of the people so they can choose a new group of principled and competent leaders to run the government whatever be its form.

Presidential or parliamentary? The realeuestion is: Who will run it?

60

Learn from the child.

THE STORY IS TOLD ABOUT A LIFTLE CHILD from the province who came to Manila for the first time. He was amazed with all the new things he saw in the city. Upon seeing the flyovers, he whispered to his father "Tatay, bakit po se etin maraming ilog na walang tulay, pero Fr. Jerry M. ditto po maraming tulay, wala namang ilog (Why is it that in our place there are many rivers with no bridges, while here, there are many bridges even if there are no rivers)?"

Today is the Peast of the Sto. Niño. In today's Gospel (Mk. 10, 13-16) Jesus underlines the value and importance of children. "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the Kingdom of God belongs to such as these." It is precisely the innocence, the honesty, the helplessness and even the vulnerability of children that make them open and receptive to the Kingdom of God. We adults can learn a lot from the children; especially in the way we tend to adulterate life itself with our grown-up pride, lies and self-importance.

Children not only remind us of the way we were, but also what we should be. It is these "little ones," devoid of wealth, power and status who point to us the way to the Kingdom of God. If you feel lost, pressured, or harassed, look at a child, hold a child, embrace a child, and let a child lead you out of your self-made darkness into the light.

I realized how "adult" I have become when one summer, driving with my little nephews and nieces to Pangasinan, we trailed a tricycle with a pig on its side-car. As far as I was concerned, I saw a pig that was about to be slaughtered, and, that was that. However, my 6-year-old niece, upon seeing this remarked: "Look how good that man is, bringing his pig around for a ride!" Her re-

MOMENTS Orbos, SVD

mark really hit me: I saw the pig, and I saw a dead meat; she saw the pig and she saw a live tourist! May we never lose the child that is in each and every one of us.

Recently, I facilitated a retreat for nuns in an isolated island. The first thing I asked them was just to relax, and to forget their functions, their titles and great responsibilities, and just be like children once again. It is amazing how walls collapse and bridges are built when we become like children once again. It turned out to be such an enjoyable and liberating experience. Why? Because we gave importance and did not belittle the child in us, and precisely because we did that, we were able to relate with each other as persons, minus the functions, minus the ambitions and other so-called adult preoccupations.

Jesus' words, "Let the children come to me," should also serve as a warning to "bigshots" who think they can steer and manipulate the course of a whole nation. Just because the majority of our people are poor doesn't mean they are dumb. Just because people are not speaking (or are not given the chance to be heard) doesn't mean they are stupid. Liars and manipulators, beware, You cannot fool the people all the time.

You can not go on telling lies. You will go down somewhere, sometime. Do not belittle the little ones—the poor, the suffering, and the lowly in our country. They have Je-

sus on their side. Truth will prevail. Goodness will triumph. It's only a matter of time.

I feel disgusted when adults and the socalled leaders talk among themselves and come up with win-win solutions for themselves. When will the people really win in this country?

To those who continue to use and abuse the little ones and the marginalized in our country out of selfishness, and to those who prevent the poor from enjoying true and lasting peace and progress, be reminded of Jesus' words. "Whatever you did to the least of my brothers and sisters, you did it unto me." Please forget personal ambitions and agenda, and use your privilege and status to really help and serve our people. Please make a difference. And please do it now.

On this Peast of the Sto. Niño, we adults must ask the children and the little ones in our midst for forgiveness: Forgive us for the times we were so busy with our adult businesses and we forgot you; forgive us when we were so focused on our plans, and we forgot to ask you; forgive us when we were so caught up with our well-thought agenda, and we did not consult you; forgive us when we thought we were so darn right, and we belittled you; forgive us when we go on with our sins and wrongdoings, thinking that you are too young or too little to know; finally, forgive us for thinking that we still have many years to go, and forget to really prepare you, because we thought we were indispensable, when in fact, the future is now, and the future is you.

A moment with the Lord:

Lord, forgive me and my grown-up pride, for having forgotten to learn from a child. Amen.

A highly politicized Armed Forces

REVEILLE

DURING THE MARTIAL LAW YEARS, PRESIDENT Perdinand B. Marcos sought to keep the loyalty and support of his generals by, among other things, dangling the possibility of extensions covering their tour of active duty. At that time, officers were supposed to be compulsorily retired after completing 30 years of service. But in the case of Gen. Romeo Espino, Gen. Pabian Ver, Gen. Fidel Ramos and a host of other generals in the Armed Forces of the Philippines, which then included the Philippine Constabulary, their retirements were held in abeyance. They were granted "extensions" usually for six months at a time. After a while, it became the goal of generals approaching retirement to lobby with the powers-that-be for the "extension" of their services. The pay was not bad and the perks made things even better. Because of the slow attrition at the top, movement from below became snail-paced. One of the issues raised by the Reform the Armed Forces Movement (RAM) was precisely the highly politicized handing out of extensions to retiring generals in exchange presumably for their continuing support and loyalty.

Today, with the constitutional prohibition against "extensions," all officers, except for the AFP chief of staff, retire from the service upon reaching age 56. Unfortunately, the policy has given rise to a different type of problem. Unlike the extensions of the Marcos era, we now have the "revolving door" policy which has seen the appointment of six AFP chiefs of staff in four years of the Arroyo administration. In fact, next July, Gen. Generoso Senga, the current chief of staff, will retire after less than a year in office. A leading candidate to replace him is the present Army commander, Lt. Gen. Hermogenes Esperon Jr., one of the four generals implicated in the "Hello Garci" tapes The results of the investigation of this case is not yet out, although I was informed that the committee tasked to look into the charges is preparing to release its findings this month. The former AFP Inspector General Vice lives of our soldiers and our people. The South-

Ramon J. Farolan

Admiral Mateo Mayuga, who heads the committee, is now the flag officer in command (FOIC) of the Philippine Navy. Could there be any doubt as to the committee's conclusions?

Last September, in one of the most embarrassing snafus in AFP command arrangements, Maj Gen. Samuel Bagasin, the 4th Infantry Division commander, was supposed to take over as Southern Command chief. Southcom is the largest and most important of the AFP's unified commands, with headquarters in Zamboanga City. At the last minute, in the face of intense political sobbying by t prominent church leader on behalf of another officer, Bagasin's takeover was scrapped and Lt. Gen Edilberto Adan, the AFP deputy chief of staff, was designated as the Southcom officer in charge

Last week, after only four months on the job, General Adan retired from the service while Gen Bagasin is scheduled to be transferred to the Central Command (Centcom) in the Visayas. Guess who took over as Southcom chief? Maj Gen. Gabriel Habacon, the officer rumored as being the interested party in the Bagasin turnover snafu. An archbishop was among the prominent guests at Habacon's assumption of command. It appears that political debts from the 2004 elections are still being paid at this late date.

Perhaps our politicians and even some of our church leaders don't realize it, but when they interfere with affairs of the armed forces, they endanger the national security and put at risk the

com is our main unit tasked with fighting Muslim secessionists, communist insurgents, Abu Sayyaf elements and Jemaah Islamiyah terrorists in Mindanao. A "revolving door" policy regarding its commander will not do our nation any good. Only individuals benefit from these frequent changes while the organization suffers from the lack of clear, long-term guidance and control from a leadership that may be distracted by early retirement plans.

The recent turnover of command at the Philippure Navy is another case in point. After earlier official announcements by no less than the executive secretary, the ceremonies had to be called off on the day itself. While the Palace explanation mentioned that the President had not come to any decision—this was hard to believe since even the invitations had been printed and sent out-it was the hand of politics that caused the postponement of the original plans. Portunately for Vice Admiral Mayuga, he was allowed to assume the post of POIC, Philippine Navy. Some people see his masumption as the price for clearing the officers in the "Hello Garci" scandal. A bet unkind, but that's what happens when the politicians get into the picture.

Perhaps, the most politicized unit in the armed forces also happens to be the most sensitive. The Inreliigence Service, Armed Forces of the Philippines (Isafp) is believed to be the source of the "Hello Garci" tapes even if General Senga has denied that the AFP has any wiretapping capability. What could be more political than activities related with these tapes! Which brings me to a very sad observation. Last year alone, the AFP jost some 450 officers and men killed in action (KIA). Some sources put the figures at a high of 700; others, a low of 200. This is almost double the casualties in previous years. In comparison, the United States lost some 2,000 men in the Iraq war from 2001 to 2005.

That is the real tragedy and that is the price we will continue to pay for too much politics in the

affairs of our armed forces

A Filipino portrait

LAST JAN. 1, ANC AIRED THE JESUIT EXPERIMENTAL TALK show, which was hosted by Bishop Luis Tagle of the diocese of Cavite. The topic of that episode was "Outlook 2006." The guests were acciologist and Inquirer columnist Randy David and his younger brother, Bible scholar Fr. Pablo David. The guests started off with the highlights of the year 2005, but rather than focusing on the negative things that happened, discussion

delved into the Pilipino psyche or-if you want-the Pilipino spirit.

Nono Alfonso, S.J. What was the Institute on Church and Social Issues

COMMENTARY

portrait of the Filipino that emerged from the newsmaker events of 20057 What inner resources can the Filipino harness and draw strength from so that this year will be different?

inevitably, the leadership problem cropped up. But as Randy opined, the credibility problem has plagued not only the government; it has contaminated other institutions, including the Church. Because of this, he said, there is what experts in his field term as the "erasure of certitudes." The common Filipino does not know whom to trust anymore as most institutions are failing his expectations. In the case of the ongoing political crisis surrounding the President, the Filipino has become very suspicious and cynical over who is telling the truth. It doesn't help that Malacañang as well as the opposition continue to play the dirty war of propaganda and counter-propaganda. Pity the common Pilipino then, he is left hungering for the truth but not knowing whence it shall

For his part, Pather Pablo suggested that this dilemma of the common tao, perhaps, largely explains the immense popularity last year of the Pantasy genre and the phenomenal Pinoy Big Brother in national television. The first, he said, shows the subliminal desire of the Pilipino to have heroes to look up to at this point in time, whose sense of righteousness and self-sacrifice are what are sorely wanting in the current crop of leaders. Remember that 2005 was the year the likes of Raul Roco, Haydee Yorac and Jaime Cardinal Sin passed away. It was also the year that the Cory magic failed to spur another people power revolution.

Likewise, the popularity of the reality TV show "Pinoy Big Brother" demonstrates, according to the brothers David, the desire of Filipinos to have a big brother or a leader who is on top of things, who, as in the program, commands obedience and respect. Again, the show, they said, points to the silent cry of the Filipinos for leaders who are almost God-like in their wisdom and in their power to make things happen

The year 2005 then showed what Filipinos will continue to desire and wish for leaders of moral integrity and heroic

In the second half of the show, the discussion delved into the Filipino's internal resources that could help him survive this year and the future. Randy pointed out the Pilipino's deep sense of rengiosity, which enables him to be brave in the face of whatever odds. He told the story of two overseas Filipino workers he met in a plane on his way to Germany. These were "probinsiyanas" according to him. They had not even been to Manila but here they were on their way to a foreign country. He was impressed by their courage, he said. But later he discovered what, perhaps, was the source of that against-all-odds courage. As the plane continued its flight, the two OFWs reached for their bags, drew out their small prayer books and silently recited their novenas. To him, he said, it is this deep sense of faith that continues to enable Filipinos to look to the future with courage and

Father Pablo, for his part, added that the OFW phenomenon also points to another strength of the Filipinos their valuing of the family. Mothers, fathers, sisters and brothers are ready and willing to traverse untold distances, and face the difficult life abroad just so their families here can have a better life. Father Pablo, Randy and Bishop Tagle, however, agreed that the challenge is how to broaden this Filipino sense of family so that it would include the whole nation. Father Pablo cited Benedict Anderson who said that the Filipino, while remaining until now clear about joyalty to family, still struggles in imagining a Filipino nation. Terminologies and labels, according to Bishop Tagle, are partly to blame. He cited, for example, the ubiquitous slogans that barangays use "Tapat ko, linis ko." Although well-intentioned, it somehow perpetuates a certain sense of individualism, a sense that one is only responsible for oneself. In the middle ages, Bishop Tagle said, St. Francis of Assist removoduced a word that was lost in the feudal society of his time-"frater" or brother-and this he claimed influenced the world into thinking that everyone is a brother or sister, that everyone, rich or poor, is part of one big family. Internalizing this kind of thinking, he said, remains the greatest challenge to Filipinos this year and beyond. With the Filipino's resilient faith, his deep valuing for family, and a strong sense of solidarity with his countrymen, the future still remains hopeful.

Advice to newlyweds

ATTENDING A NUMBER OF WEDDINGS REcently, as a mining or as a guest, set me to wondering what sort of advice the newlyweds-especially the brides—got or were getting before they walked down the aisle and set off on the road to marriage.

From my own experience, I would bet that the Information conveyed was not only inadequate, if not entirely useless, but also misleading or, even if it covered the essentials, didn't really answer the truly, er, burning questions

The only time my mother and I ever discussed sex came after my then-boyfriend (and now my husband) had pulled off his "pamanhikan," and we became officially engaged. One morning, Mama entered my room and told me a story about a girl in her hometown who, after she had gotten engaged, went ahead and had carnal relations with her fiance. "But before they could get married, he suddenly died and she found herself not only unmarried, but also pregnant!" I didn't know how exactly to react: Was she telling me the story because she truly believed I hadn't yet become physical with my boyfriend? Or did she know me well enough and felt the need to put the fear of God and scandal in me?

Another mother I know asked her daughrer a few days before the wedding if she knew enough about sex. "Morn!" her daughter exclaimed "I about sex. "Mom!" her daughter exclaimed breed dogs, and I've watched Popsie and Mopsie (her pet Chow-chows) mate!" "Well, that's good," said the mother, and then, remembering something, shot back. "But don't copy them, OK?"

IF cautionary tales and admonitions about doggie-style sex were enough to guide a young woman (and man) through the unknown territory of marital relations, then there wouldn't be any need for the rest of this column.

But too many couples start off their married lives armed only with the most rudimentary information, and though they do manage to cobble together a successful relationship after some time, they do so only by learning from their mistakes and somehow overcoming their miscues and musconceptions.

Here then is a wedding gift to all lovers out each other.



there contemplating marriage, or already up to their churs in tulle and lace, flower arrangements and place cards. Here are answers to questions I know I had in mind 27 years ago but dared not ask any adult who could report me to my mother. Read on but don't rat on me to your parents, OX7

First things first, about sex-It's true, what the advice columns say: Sex is important in marriage, but it is not what marriage is all about. But I can tell you that living with another person is difficult enough as it is, and it is only by being in a thrall of physical attraction to each other that you can manage to overlook the thousand annoyances that will inevitably crop up in the early years. The fascination will fade with time, but by then you should have found other things to value in the relationship, though sex-and romance—will always be important ingredients in the glue that will hold you two together.

I happen to think that sexual compatibility is essential in a marriage. And even if you're the sort who believes that "virginity is the biggest gift you can give your spouse on your wedding night," it's still important to be sure that you are at least physically attracted to and comfortable with him or her.

But even if desire and eagerness were in the mix, that doesn't guarantee earthshaking sex on the first night. Lower your expectations. You will be exhausted and fraught with tension, if not unfamiliar with each other's body contours. Take your time, rest a bit. The good thing about being married is that you know you have the rest of your lives including the early morning hours—to explore and pleasure

A word to grooms: Be gentle and patient and remember that the best rewards come to those willing to do the prep work. And to brides: You have already commutted your life to this man, so remember that pothing is too shameful or embarrassing to try with him-at

AND this brings me to-contraception. Between booking the church and reception venue and going for your gown fittings, squeeze in some time to visit an obstetrician-gynecologist. Have the plumbing checked out, as it were, ask the essential questions, and go for a family planning con-

If you put off thinking about contraception until after the honeymoon, it may be too late. Even if you plan on becoming pregnant the day after, you may want to be assured that you won't be facing any problems down the line. My own advice would be to wait awhile. The stresses of the first trimester, on top of all the hassles of the wedding preparations, don't augur well for the future.

Your choice of family planning method should be the result of your own preference and need, your doctor's advice, and your flance's views (he could also undertake to make contraception his

If you decide to rely on "natural" family planning, be aware that you should go for counseling at least three months before the wedding, since experts say that's the amount of time needed before a woman can be fully familiar with her cycle. But if it's important to you that you don't get pregnant at the outset, my own advice would be to rely on a back-up method (a condom or other device, or a contraceptive patch) for the honeymoon, since all the tension and exhaustion can play havoc with your cycle

As for the groom-to-be, I think it's important that he, too, go for some medical advice, especially if he has apprehensions. Remember that most sexually transmitted infections don't have actual visible symptoms. If you can't give your bride the gift of your virginity, at least make sure you don't give her an STI as a wedding present. That really

Protecting the Constitution from politicians

AMENDING A CONSTITUTION IS SERIOUS BUSIness; writing a new one is even more so. A mature pation does it for the right reasons—to take account of new realities in the world or in the country itself, to solve persistent problems that cannot be cured by ordinary legislation, etc. It is irresponsible to undertake constitutional reform just to fix the problems of an incumbent politician. It is like attempting to save a marriage, troubled by a chronically dishonest spouse, by drawing up a post-nuprial agreement, when dissolving the relationship is the more logical action to take.

Framers of constitutions everywhere are often cautioned against writing the values of their generation into a document that should serve future generations as well. If this seems like a sensible advice, then it should warn us against the tricks of politicians who want to write their political careers into the Constitution.

That's the main reason I have refused to participate in the so-called "great debate" on Charter change. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is the wrong person to start it. Her mandate is under question because of the widespread behef that she conspired to rig the outcome of the 2004 presidential election. Her behavior as President of the country in the last five years has been marked by a total lack of respect for the most basic principles of ethical leadership. She is desperately fighting for purvival. A constitution written under such auspices can only be a polluted document.

A constitution belongs to the people, not to their politicians. It must mirror their changing conception of themselves and of the role they seek to play in the world. It must reflect the general state of their politics and define the kind of power structure they believe is appropriate to their needs. Moy ver, a constitution must set down the relation ... in between the state and the citizens in mean agrut rms. Constitutions typically formulate the rights and freedoms of citzens as limitations of governmental power. But

PUBLIC LIVES

Randy David



modern constitutions are moving in the direction of more positive rights-like the right to food, the

right to housing, the right to education, the right to health, the right to a fair trial, and the right to

employment, just to name a few These are issues much bigger than the fortunes of a few politicians, in the 1971 Constitutional Convention, one of the dominant currents that shaped the drafting of the new constitution was a resurgent nationalism. The charter that had served the Commonwealth Government was found to be too resonant of colonial influence, and grossly inadequate to the challenges faced by a sovereign nation. Many delegates held decolonization to be the proper task of the convention. But Marcos hijacked the work of the 1971 Constitutional Convention by declaring martial law, and shaped the final draft to suit his personal agenda.

That is the reason why hardly anyone objected when in 1986 the first act of the Edsa government was to throw away the 1973 Marcos Constitution. A new consutution was drafted by 48 individuals handpicked by President Cory Aquino, and thus

was overwhelmingly radfied by the people A quick glance at the 1987 Constitution would reveal the principal concerns that guided its writing. The restrictions on executive power, especially on the power to declare martial law, are everywhere like a tonic seeking to cure a lingering authoritarian hangover. The new Charter pays homage to the animating force of people power. And the nationalist yearnings that could not be enacted in 1971 echo in many provisions of the

constitution. The most significant of these are the provisions on the US bases and the restrictions on foreign participation in the national economy. We got rid of the bases in 1991, but the debate on the need to liberalize foreign entry into various sectors of the economy continues

Today, the discussion is focused on the shift to the parliamentary system. The latter's proponents argue that a parliamentary government is the best way to deal with the recurrent crisis of the presidency, which, they say, we have been forced to manage through the unwieldy mechanism of people power. This is an interesting defense of the parliamentary system. Would a parliamentary system really make people power unnecessary?

There are many advantages to a parliamentary system—a government that fuses executive and legislative powers. But I suspect that, apart from the diversionary function that Charter change is meant to play in the present political juncture, the overriding reason behind the present plan to shift to parkamentarism is to strip the people of their right to directly elect their highest leader, thus paving the way for those who would never win in a popular vote.

Since 1998, when Joseph Estrada won decisively as president, Philippine politics has never been the same. The country's traditional political class felt that their supremacy was coming to an end Unless they did something, they would henceforth have to deal with movie icons and media celebrities who stand outside the walls of the elitist system they control. The fear of a president who will take his cues from the needs of his mass constituency rather than from the oligarchy that funded his campaign is what unites Fidel Ramos, Jose de Venecia and Gioria Macapagal-Arroyo, They are the gatekeepers of a politics devoted to the perpetuation of oligarchical rule. This is the real crux of the Issue, and the "no-election" scenario is only one small proof of the despuir of our politicians.

Comments to public lives @gmail.com

THEY SAID

Right course

How can you go wrong with ship-building in a

country with 7,000 islands?

-Mapua Institute of Technology president Dr. Reynaldo Vea on his decision to take up mechanical engineering so he could go into mip-beilding

Incredible source

"This is the best example of double-hearsay-incompetent, inadmissible and incredible."

-Former Sen. Tito Sotto's reaction to Press Secretary Ignocio Bunye's remarks that he has "very unflattering" details about the meeting of Sotto, former President Fidel Ramos and Senate President Franklin Driton

'Hara-kiri'

'Had Japanese officials acted like Justice Secretary Raul Gonzalez and VFA (Visiting Porces Agreement) Commission chief Zosimo Paredes, the Japanese people would have demanded their heads or expected them to perform hara-kiri

-House Deputy Minority Leader Saint Ocumpo asking Philippine officials to emulate Inpan's swift and declaire action in prooocuting an erring American soldier

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Editor Juan V. Sarmiento Jr.

TALK of the TOWN Abled 'disabled'

THE ARTICLES FEATURED HERE ARE AMONG THE 10 LIFE STORIES OF PERSONS has the right to decent work," says Michael Davies of the Christian Blind Mission. with disability (PWDs) contained in "TheseAbled," a newly published book about how a group of PWDs struggled to become productive members of society.

Some 8 to 10 percent of the country's population is disabled. They have orthopedic impairment because of polio or an accident. Others are blind or have cerebral palsy. Others have hearing or speech difficulties.

Many of the PWDs have had a brush not only with discrimination but also with deprivation or isolation.

As a result, they have limited employment opportunities. But disability does not mean inability. "Every so-called 'disabled' person has talent, and skill, and everyone like any other human being."

With skills in making chairs, PWDs are earning their keep. The first order came from a school in Baguio City in 1993. Today, their cooperatives are making chairs and tables for schools across the country. One of their biggest clients is the education department.

The cooperatives have formed the National Federation of Cooperatives of Persons

Erlinda Timbreza-Valerio, also known as Daisy Valerio, author of the book, expresses the hope that "TheseAbled" will contribute to a better understanding of the sector. The "book presents PWDs whose lives speak of their boundless potentials an capabilities

Never too late to join cause of PWDs

Y FAMILY IS FROM COTA bato City where I was born on Feb. 8, 1967 My right leg is shorter than my left because I got sick with polio when I was young. Our family gave me all the support I needed since childhood. They never treated me as disabled and I can do almost everything that others can. The only thing I cannot do is run. I hardly felt discrimination since childhood. There were some children who called me piloy (lame) because I had a limp but that was the exception

Musicians

I come from a family of municians and I started playing the trumpet when I was in Grade V Later, I played the piano and the saxophone

I went to the University of Santo Tomas is Manila during my college years. There, I finished Hotel and Restaurant Management, I took the course because I wanted to help my father manage our hotels in Cotabato City. I started managing our hotels after my college graduation in 1987 and married in 1991 at the age of 24. My wife and I put our

also have a rent-a-car and cellular phone business. We have four children-three boys and one gurl

Empire State

I was a busy businessman. Thus, I hardly had time to get in touch with my fellow persons with disability (PWDs). My awareness of the situation of PWDs developed in quite a strange way. This started when I accompanied my 14-year-old son to the United States in 2003. He was a member of the Philippine Junior Golf Tournament. In the US, I experienced the fact that disabled persons were given priority I was always given the "Very important Person" treatment wherever we went. This surprised me.

One day, we were going up the Empire State Building in New York. There was a long line of people going up and we lined up with them. We were standing for more than an hour. I became very tired and had just started sitting down when a security guard suddenly approached me. He asked whether I was disabled. When I answered "yes," he told my son, a relative and me to follow him without

to the ticketing area where we were prioritized. In a few minutes, we were already up. We were given the same VIP treatment in all places we visited. I also found out that disabled persons were given monthly budget by the US government.

When I came home, my experience was different. I was parking in a place designated for disabled persons in a mall in Manila when a security guard came and asked for my ID Since I could not produce one, he asked me to transfer to the regular purking area. Although that experience was very different from my experience abroad, I did not argue with the security guard. I simply transferred to the place he designated. When I went home to Cotabato, I told my mother that my disability was an advantage in America but not in the Philippines.

Since then, I started to be more sensitive to the plight of my fellow disabled. I arranged for some blind people to alternate as masseurs in our horels. Soon, I contacted the associa-

own restaurant and bakeshop. We even asking for my ID. He brought us tion of PWDs in Cotabeto. However, I that they would not beg in the also have a reptagear and cellular to the ticketing area where we were did not actively attend their meetings attents. Their situation trucked me did not actively attend their meetings at the beginning. I met Peter Hammerie [of the Christian Bland Mission International] and Johnny Lantion when they came to Cotabato for the first time. They stayed in our hotel.

Enlightened

An accident I met three years ago brought me closer to PWDs. I slipped in our bitchen. The main bone of my let foot was broken so that my foot was put in a cast. I stayed home for six months. In the beginning I was using a wheelchair. Later, I used some cruiches while I was going through therapy. One day, one of my former classmares in high school, Olan Emberga, a PWD, visited me. He invited me to visit a shelter workshop and attend the meeting of a cooperative

I was enlightened when I saw PWDs making chairs and was especially struck when I saw one who was hammering a nail. His feet held the piece of wood and nail in place while his wrist stump held the hammer. He was very fast in doing this. I also learned that the members of the cooperative worked hard to earn so

deeply. While earlier I avoided fellow PWDs. I started to love their company since then

I became more and more active in the association and cooperative Soon, I was elected chair of our cooperative in Cotabato. Together with other delegates of our cooperative I went to Manila for the general assembly and met the representatives and staff of the Federation of National Cooperatives of Persons with Disability. I was elected chair of the federation in 2004. I was surprised why they elected me, but I accepted it just the same.

Adjustment

My responsibility in the federation suddenly became very big. 1 visited almost all of our membercooperatives and was glad to meet fellow PWDs in various parts of the country. My wife had to make a bix adjustment because I became very busy with the cause of our cooperative and the federation. She now manages our businesses.

The education department's



FREDERICK Castro

2002 budget for school chairs amounting to P49 million came during my term. This is the big project we were waiting for. When it finally came, we could hardly believe that it had finally become a reality. We waited for this project for almost three years.

(Castro is the chair of the National Federation of Cooperatives of Persons with Disability.)

The joys and pains of family life



ROMUALDO Barrientos

born a healthy thild on Aug. 29, 1957 and was already running when my disability

We lived in Old Sta. Mesa, Manila. My father was an employee of the San Miguel Brewery while my mother was a bousewife I was about three years old when I had high fever. Thinking that it was just an ordinary sickness, my parents brought me to the National Orthopedic Hospital after a week of persistent fever. They were informed that I had polio and was operated on and confined in the hospital for three months. Back home, I could hardly move and after that could not walk anymore.

In 1962, there was a big fire in our neighborhood in Old Sta. Mesa and our house was burned. We transferred to the house of my mother's cousin in Manggahan, Pasig. It was there that I started attending kindergarten dasses. My mother carried me to the Manggahan Elementary School and brought me home after classes.

I was in Grade I when my mother died in 1964. When she was gone, life became more difficult for us children, especially for me, a disabled. I wanted to continue studying but no one could bring me to school. My older brother was also studying and was already a neenager so he came far from our house. But once

early. My older sister could not carry me because I was already heavy. Aside from studying, she served as our surrogate mother. While our father was at work, she cooked our food, washed our clothes and cured for the three smaller kids who were barely 4, 3 and 1

Boy scouts

Having started to use crutches, I continued studying but stopped after finishing Grade IV I was always in the top 10 of our class then and would have wanted very much to continue studying but things became very difficult for me especially with a path, which was muddy and shppery when it rained. The school principal came to our house often and encouraged me to study She told me she would assign boy scouts to fetch me and bring me home. The following school year, I finished elementary. Our principal paid for my lunch in the school canteen and bought my school needs. My classmates who persisted in carrying me became my friends. Some of them are now working abroad and they always visit me when they

After elementary, I told the school principal I wouldn't study anymore. My father could not afford to send me to school and, besides, Rizal High School was quite

Y PARENTS SAID I WAS home late and could not wake up again, the principal arranged my enrollment and provided for my school needs. She also assigned students from Pasig to fetch me at home and bring me back after classes. In school, teachers were very considerate. When we had examinations, they asked somebody to bring the papers to the classroom where I was I made my assignments during lunch breaks so that I had nothing to carry when I went home. Our adviser gave me a locker in our classroom where I

kept my papers and things. I was not able to finish second year high school because I got into trouble. Some students kept on making fun of me. One day, one of them started to pinch my ears. At first, I did not mind him and requested him to stop but he didn't. I became angry and hit him with a newly sharpened pencil that went deep into his skin. We were brought to the principals' office. After hearing the story, he was suspended from classes. He got very angry and threatened to do something bad to me. It was already the fourth grading in my second year when I decided to stop going to school

We had a neighbor who was working at the Cross Foundation for the Rehabilitation of PWDs (CFARD) in Project 4, Quezon City One day, he invited me to go with him and I was accepted to work there. CFARD, a shelter workshop

producing rattan and buri (coconut ther. Thinking that they wanted to sucks) crafts, operated in two areas take her away, we decided to in the same vicinity. These were the Munting Pamayanan (Small Community) and the Escopa Bliss. Since traveling every day was quite difficult for me, I stayed in the workshop during weekdays and went home to Marikus during weekends. Aside from our daily salary and free board and lodging, we were given an extra five kilos of rice a week for bringing home. Before 1987 ended, I was promoted to project supervisor.

I met Mercy, now my wife and a fellow PWD, in the shelrer workshop in Project 4. Both of her hands were deformed since birth. I was already more than 30 years old and she was barely 23. We fell in love and started to live together in December 1987. One day, she suggested that if I was serious with our relationship, I should talk to her family to arrange our marriage. My stepmother and I went to talk to Mercy's family. It turned out that she had 11 siblines most of whom were girls. Except for one or two, her siblings did not accept me, probably because I was in a wheelchair Their mother was already dead and their father was in Bicol

in 1988, Mercy's siblings told her to go to Bicol and fetch their fa-

elope. Since they were always watching her, she would put on extra clothes when she came to work and kept these in our workshop When she had enough clothes, I hid her in my cousin's house in Marikina while I continued working in Project 4. Her sisters who were angry with me kept coming to our workplace asking me about Mercy. I told them I knew nothing about her whereabouts.

After five months of hiding. Mercy got pregnant, with our first child and we decided to show ourselves to her family. Again, Mercy's sisters were angry when they saw her situation and confirmed that I was father of the child

Her father who was already in Manila at that time and her other siblings had nothing against me though, but the others told Mercy, Who will take care of you when you give birth, with your husband disabled?" Hurt by those remarks, I told them, "We are very much in love with each other and yes, don't worry, we will take care of ourselves "We got married in Ju

Today, Mercy and I have four children.

(Barrientos is a manager of Samahang Ikawanlad ng mga may Ka-pansanan Ating Palawakin Multipurpose Cooperative.)

When life requires a relearning

UR PLACE IS 12 KILOMErers away from Davao Ciry. We are nine siblings and I am the seventh, born on June 29, 1973. I have six brothers and two sisters. Aside from tilling our farm, my father fished in the nearby river and I enjoyed going with him very often. My mother was a housekeeper. We were a very happy family.

Our life changed gready when my father suddenly died. I was 11 years old then. When he was gone, life became very difficult for our family. He was such a big loss to all of us, especially to me who was very close to him. Until now, there are times when I long for his presence because I was a Pape's girl and spoiled in a way.

We had always been a closely limit family. When our father was gone, my siblings beloed my mother in sending me to school. I stayed with a married brother in Davso City. Up to the present, my siblings and I go home on Christmas holidays to visit our mother, although some are now married and

are living far from home. The experience, which greatly changed my life, happened on Dec. 26, 1991. I was in fourth year high school. We were on our way to Mangagoy, in Compostela Valley, to buy fruits, which we intended to sell before the New Year. The incident happened at around 7 a.m. 1 was sleep-

ing and did not know how the accident happened. The hared vehicle went off the road and crashed. I must have been half asleep because I heard my brother saying, "Stop, or my sister will die." Having been seated beside the driver, I was the only one who was hurt.

Amputated

Leet first aid in Moncayo after which I was brought to San Pedro Hospital in Davao City. I was confined in the emergency section and was unconscious for several days. I was still unconscious when the doctor operated on me. When I woke up, I was in great pain and chid not know that my right arm had been amputated. I knew that my family

love me very much and I felt their love and support all the more during those moments. I spent New Year 1992 in the hospital together with my mother and siblings. I could hardly bear the pain and did not allow anyone to touch my injured arm because it was very painful. I was con-

fined in the hospital for two months. When I was out of the hospital, I felt the big change in my life. My



EVELYN Sumackey

mother did almost everything for me, including dressing up. I was traumatized and stopped going to school Por sometime, i did not want to ride any vehicle. Prior to the accident, I was right-handed, and was depressed when I remembered that I would have to spend the rest of my life wishout my right hand. Up the present, I am still very much afraid

when I am riding a vehicle that goes fast. Later, a doctor recommended that I get an artificial arm. This was very expensive but was made possible through the help of good people.

New hope

It took me almost three years after the accident before I finally accepted that life had to go on. In 1994, I en-

rolled at the University of Mindanao in Davao Ciry and took up Bachelor of Science in Accountancy, When dasses started, it was difficult for me to write with my left hand. I was a working student bringing my niece to school and fetching her after dasses.

Before my graduation, 1 did my on-the-job training at the Association of Differently Abied Persons Multipurpose Cooperative in Davao City, I was not yet a member of the cooperative then. Everyone was required to be a member of the cooperative, Larer, I became a volunteer of the cooperative.

Finally, my graduation was nearing. I was very excited and could not sleep the whole night before my

and my siblings with their children were excited, too. They surprised me with their presents when I received my diploma. I graduated in March 1998, finishing my course in three and one half years because I mok summer classes

After graduation, I became a staff member of the cooperative Working with fellow PWDs was a

great challenge with everyone's uniqueness but being with them greatly helped, too. I was especially touched by one woman who had two hands but could hardly make use of them because they were underdeveloped since birth.

Together with fellow PWDs, I experienced traveling to Cotabaro City and to other parts of Mindanao when we delivered chairs. The work was sometimes difficult, but I loved it and was able to overcome the difficulties. Our salary scheme was low because that was all that our cooperative could afford at that time, but we loved our work because we knew that we were working for our cooperative.
In February 2004, 1 attended a training in Manila called Empower-

ing Cooperatives through Enterprise Development." Our manager was supposed to attend the training but could not, so I was requested to attend. After the training, the management of the National Federation of Cooperatives of Persons with Disability invited me to work at the national office. They wanted me to start the following month. At first, I did not like the idea because I was not used to being away from home. After considering every thing though, I realized it would be good for me to work in a different environment. I accepted the offer.

(Sumachay is the human resource development and planning officer of the NFCPWD.)

INQUIRERMindanao

Editor Jun Bandayrei Bureau Chief Nico A. Alconaba

Maria Cristina: Legends of a 'lost' fall

By Christine F. Godinez-Ortega Iligan City

ESPITE THE MARIA CRISTIna Palls being kept out of sight by the National Power Corp., its waters trapped in turbines as an economical means to generate 467 megawatts of electric power for Mindanao, legends of this fall live on.

This is therefore an attempt to look into how the legend began although we know such quest remains as clusive as the now-yousee-now-you-don't falls itself.

The Maria Cristina is the mother of 20 waterfalls in Iligan City. It plunges up to 320 feet into a pool where boulders, one of which is sald to be the petrified magical war boat of Prince Bantogen, hero of the Maranao-Maguindanao epic "Darangen," are visible because the flow is only "by appointment."

Resigned to the Napocor's sequestration as a necessary sacrifice for Mindanao's benefit, Iliganous joke about the Maria Cristina being a "waterfalse wonder," a "waterfalls by appointment" or "only on Saturdays and Sundays" because its waters are released for visitors for about three hours each day on weekends.

Released at the appointed time, usually 11 a.m. to 3 p.m., one can no longer hear the thumder of rushing water that used to generate misty sprays to as wide as 30 meters on dry land.

Twin sisters

Where before the division of parallel flows is obscured by the volume of water over the precipice, it is to the benefit of those enamored by the legend to point out that the split shows the "strong presence" of the twin sisters, Maria and Cristina, for which the falls is named.

No matter the manmade controls over the falls, the legend continues to buoy the people's spirits.

If the presence of a waterfall indicates a healthy environment, the music of flowing water is therapeutic like a robust river's, large or small, blocked or nered, cascading, farming out, or plunging vohaminously and vertically into a pool.

Among the best known of these natural wonders are Venezuela's Angel Falls, the world's highest at 3,230 feet; the Victoria Palls, the world's largest, found on the borders of Zambia and Zimbabwe; and the Niagara Falls, the most voluminous in North America. Singapore, like other countries not blessed with natural waterfalls, made one called Jurong Falls.

2 brothers

The website, Wikipedia encyclopedia, on waterfalls defines a waterfall as "a geological formation resulting from water flowing over an erosion-resistant rock formation that forms a sudden break in elevation."

Such explanations of how a waterfall is formed are often bereft of romance and pale in comparison to the legend that makes a visit to the Maria Cristina Falls memorable

The legend may have started simultaneously with the telling of other legends about Lake Lanao, where Radia Indarapatra figures, and in the epic Darangen, where there is mention of the waterfails' existence

In a Lake Lanao legend, Radia Indarapatra was looking for his brother, Radia Solaiman, who was killed after an encounter with the giant Omaca-an.

Radia Indarapatra became so thursty in his long journey that he began drinking from the Agus River, which dried up. Angered by this, the Radia threw a large vat at the mountain wall and water gushed from it. Hence, the falls that was named Maria Cristina after, some say, a Spanish queen.

Death jump

The most consistent of these legends is the tale of Maria and Cristina, twin daughters of a farmer or kningmero who lived near the falls.

So kind and beautiful were the sisters that the stars paid them homage. Their fame spread and many men came to court them. One datu (or sultan or a Spanish military officer) wanted to marry both sisters because he was unable to decide which one was more beautiful. Instead, the sisters jumped to their deaths and their

bodies are said to be buried beneath the falls. This drowning motif, shades of Shakespeare's



MIMBALUT Falls is one of the more than 20 falls in fligan.

Ophelia, makes for an interesting probe that might offer clues to what the storytellers were like, as well as the legend's meramorphoses.

In her book, "Philippine Polk Literature: The Legends" (UP Press, 1996), Damiana Eugenio includes the futile search of Radia Indarapatra for the ring of his brother, Radia Solaiman.

Burning kingdom

Radia Indarapatra then built an irrigation system that later turned into a river, known today as the Agus River. The stream eventually flowed over the Agus rock shelf forming into Iligan's legendary falls that, in reality, is sourced from the Lake Lanao found in Marawa City in Lanao del Sut.

An interesting episode that connects these events with the epic Darangen is the story of how Prince Bantogen's kingdom, Bembaran, ended.

Bembaran was razed by fire from heaven after its people refused to be converted to Islam. The devastation was so great that Prince Bantogen's magical war boat, the Rinamentaw Mapalaw, was petrified and now rests beside the falls.

(The author has studied heroic legends and myths including Mindanco epics for many years. Her poem, "Legend of Maria Cristma Falls" is part of the Integrated Performing Arts Guild's Mindanaa repertoire during its performance tours in Asia and Europe).



MA. CRISTINA FALLS

Program

24 January 2006 (Tuesday)
Officers of the Day
Michael Mach Magains-Marries, MD
Garadine Ame Oveno, MO
3:00 PM Orwards Registration

Ms. Luz Commo-Chanden, MC, FPPA

Invocation
Felicials Antagar-Soneto, All). FPPA
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Pachicolog Milleritais Development Goels: Does Montal Health Matter? Vitrain Palel, MBSS MSc. MRCPsych

Introduction of the Sponter for the 2st Prosidential Monantal Lecture Airm Luterdo-Jimenez, MD, F2PA

Launch of the PPA Mulli-Media

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PAA Secretary Charge-ray, Scientific Co-million 30 Acoust Conventor 7:30 PM Welcome Recogilion

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10:41 11 00

PFS Par Parent 2nd Prophincial Memorial Legistre Victor C. Virken, Jr. MD, FPPS, Mick.

Program
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Introduction to the Session on

Addressor* Josephs G. Pescusi, MD, MSc.

Paychopharmacology Alica Saidans, MD

9:46 10 5 Open Forum 10:18 10:20

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1:31 3 00 Parallel Secolarus Challenges to the Fields of Geristric and Ferencia

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Child Popultatry

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Proposed States and Approval of the Proposed Ethical Guidelinas Setweet the PPA and the

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Master of Correspondes

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corner School of Figures and Reposite 8:30 PM

PM Secretary Invocation

PHILIPPINE PSYCHIATRIC ASSOCIATION, INC.

Annual Convention

Crowne Plaza Galleria Manila • January 24-27, 2006

Messages



tily warment greetings to the officers and members of the Phitippine Payohiatric Association, inc. on your 32th Annual

Your thems, 'Moving the PPA Forward: Addressing the Challenges of Philippine Psychiatry inflects your commitment to the advencement of Psychiatry in the country. As specialists in Psychilatry your efforts to upgrade your competencies are yet if o our quest for better mental health. for our growing population.

Ensuring a productive life for our countrymen is our eventsing mession. I hope this convention will help you seed in your chosen Reid and enable you to treet out countrymen sullering from mental, emotional and/or behavioral problems with greater skill and confidence.

More power and Mebuhayi governo



Loonway my morning greelings to the attics is members of the Philippine Psychiatric Association, Inc. on the hotsing of their 32"

Convention with the theme "Moving the PPA Forestri Addressing the Challerges

The Department of Health commends your association for its continuing people with markel health. As you focus on strengthening your members' professioner skille, I exhort you to contribute in the test of nation building and arge stronger albance among various health agencies for the provision of the much needed services for our lines lonunate countrymen.

bley you constantly pursue worthy endeavors in order to combat the similaroos that beset the profession and secure a brighter and healther future for

Congressions and Mebunay Kayong |

L Dogue III, MD, MAA.



Secretary of Houlds

Warmest greetings from the Philippine (PMA).

On behalf of the Others and the Board of Governors

to congrekate the officers and mombers of the Philippine Psychiatric Association. Inc. on the 32rd Amusi Convention of the

PMA laudy the efforts of the Association for its continued quest for a place in society. In a country with the land of culture we have, it is a sormidable chellenge to convince the population to accept psychlatric that apy streller to that of other shouses. With the increasing etromas our society is exposed to, Psychological inevitably play a higger ole is maintaining sunity and seamily.

PMA jobs you on your 32" Annual Convention and wishes that you have a vary productive and successful

In theor Modesto O. Linnas, MD Problémi Phylippine Medical Association

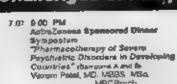
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"The PPA Media Guidelines" Ms. Luc Castomo Quantum, MD, FPPA Nodia Representations (Firm Clips)

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Convention Theme Moving the PPA Forward: Addressing the Challenges of Philippine Psychiatry

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bis Bernadate M. Aroma, MD. DPSP Geruine C. Ranoy, MD. DPSP Ruby Manekaster-Caleo, MD, FPPA 2: 01 3:30 PM Paradial Exercises Pendid Sections: Challenges in the Fields of Consultation-Lision Paychistry and Addiction Psychistry L. Consultation Liston Psychistry

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Tribute to Dr. Theodore Aben PPA in cooperation with GAPP and DARE Foundation

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Enaking the Development of Philippine Psychiatry; Let History Tell Our Story Behazar V Rayes, MD, FPPA

Where Should the PPA Get 256 - 4 10

Mr. Lourdes Laboraton-Energeteile, MD , Research irut Pacquing-Neders, ND, PPPA

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Support of Events and American Child and Adolescent

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Messages



pino psychiatrici. As we are constantly challenged in our multi-level roles as cilreciens, teachers, researchers and advocates, we continuously evolve in risk sponse to such demands. This year ϵ thems, 'Moving the PPA Forward: Adv. dressing the Challenges of Philippine Payortairy', apily encapeutates the mile.

sage of how we envision what her alread.

I enjoin all of you in share with us your thoughts on how best to prepare the present generation of Pilipino psychia-Interes to face the challenges of the future. I congratulate the officers and members of the actentitic and organizing commitbeen for gilling all of set with this data, \$14 apiting and fun-littled three and a half day

, hope to see you all as we bid latewall lee busy, stook, builted year and welcome a new set of leaders for an even more, cholorging year ahead of us.

See you all in Jenuery)

Son you all there!

Sandre &

Sortin Castro-Rockiguez, MD, FFFA, PCAPRI Philippine Psychiatric Association, Inc.



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The \$2" Annual Convention geoceleus an explină a combination of learning and fun lot, mombers is. The

Forward:

Addressing the Challenges of Philippine Psychistry' brings to lore the various levols of challenges every Filipino psychiatra reperiences in fulfilling the concurrent testes as clinician, researches londer and advecate. The practice of Psychiatry is in the midst.

of rapid change. We are lad to new I hartzons with the burgeoning of knowledge in psychophermecology and psychotherapy, the roove from mericl. Institutions to out petient care, the demand for regulal houlds care both of Individuals and populations. In the medit of all those, we ask cursaives the crucial "Spring ou ma sporty" - national

In the process of reduliting Psychiatry, we loo radeline ousewes as individual clinicians. The PPA tolers on the task of stearing all of us through this assisting

On behalf of the estocated members of the Scientific Committee, welcome to the \$2rd Appeal Convention



Ma. Lor S. Casteriro-Gueratrin, MO, FPRA Secretary Champerson, Scientific Corentiaes

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Muslim groups distrust Sulu war games

DAVAO CITY-MILITANT MUSlim groups said they were skeptical and worried about the reasons behind the upcoming RP-US military exercises in Sulu.

Jolo Councilor Cocoy Tulawie said they have every reason to oppose the military exercases despite claims that it will be packed with humanitarian missions

Tulawie, also vice president of the militant group Suara Bangsamoro, said in November last year, US forces also used humanitarian missions as an alibi to rationalize their presence in the province.

But he said it turned out that the exercises were aimed at Moro National Liberation Front (MNLF) forces.

"Of course, they will never admit this, lest they risk being charged with violating the Balikatan terms of reference and the Vis.ting Porces Agreement, which would make the peoples' grounds for opposition stronger. The people of Sulu will stand united against the US mulitary intervention in Sulu," Tulawie said.

He said the presence of US troops in Sulu will only worsen the already fragile situation in the province.

Tulawie noted that Sulu has been the stage of two war offensives by the AFP, in February and November last year, which have displaced thousands of civilians and brought "grave casualties."

"The US forces will never win the hearts of the people by doing infrastructure and other civic activities because we know about their vested economic and political interests in Sulu and Mindanao," he said.

"The US has a clear reputation for being anti-Muslim and for warring against Muslim nations, so their mere presence might provoke war and permeate a sense of fear and insecurity on the majority of the people who have a clear mistrust against the US government," Tulawie added.

He cited as example the massacre, over a century ago, of more than a thousand Muslims by American soldiers. This is now known as the Bud Dayo massacre

Turawie also expressed apprehension about what they observed as a media blackout on what's happening in the province,

Because of this, he said, the military can conveniently "manipulate the truth and dismiss singre-handedly the claims of the civilians about the violations and atrocities of both the US-RP personnel against the law and the people."

Former Human Rights commissioner Nasser Marohomsahe, head convenor of the Union of Musitms for Morality and Truth (Ummat), agreed with Tinawie.

Marohomsalic said that various cases have been brought before the Commission on Human Rights, independent human rights groups and Congress implicating some US Jeffrey M. Tupas and Jeoffrey personnel. Maitem with reports from Charite C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau



VIVA SENOR

A vendor peddles Ati-Atihan masks for local and foreign tourists in Pastrana Park, Kalibo, Akian, Each mask costs P150. The actual Ati-Atihan contest, where groups in colorful costumes dance in the streets, will take place

showroom: 1971 q. majoini st. malata teletax 524.73 (1)

MORE CHOICES / WIDE ARRAY

Army exec vows to finish NPAs in 3 years forces kined 27 communist rebels last

LUCENA CITY—THE TOP OFFICIAL of the military's Southern Luzon Command (So.com) based here in Camp Nakar has vowed to wipe out the structures of the Communist Party of the Philippines and its armed wing, the New People's Army, in the Bicol and Southern Tagalog regions in the next two or three years.

"In two or three years. we will finish them off and put an end to their terroristic activities in Southern Luzon," Lt. Gen. Pedro Cabuay Jr., Solcom chief, said here in a recent inter-

He said "the masses are now fed up

with these communists, with their extortion activities, assassinations and abductions of helpless civilians, destruction of government and private properties, among many other crimina, and terrorists acts "

Cabuay said he ordered all Solcom intelligence and operations officers during their recent top level conference to come out with a "better, systematic, aggressive and invigorated plan" to hasten the downfail of the communist rebels in Bicol and Southern Tagalog, which were partly con-

sidered as "rebe.-influenced-areas " The Solcom chief said government

year in several encounters initiated by the military.

Solcom also reported that at least 73 NPA guerrillas were also captured, while 37 have surrendered and are now being assisted by different goverament agencies in their efforts to return to the mainstream of society.

The military in Southern Lazon also claimed that a total of 58 high powered firearms and 50 short firearms were recovered, from the communist rebels last Delfin T. Mallari Jr., PDI Southern Luson Bureau

US troops start arriving in Clark

CLARK SPECIAL ECO-ZONE-NOMIC Three of eight US military aircraft due to join the war exercise Balance Piston 2006 starting Jan. 20 landed here on Saturday, bringing an initia, 500 personne, of the US Army's special forces.

Two C-130 cargo planes and a P3-Orion maritime patrol planes were seen parked at the Diosdado Macapagal International Airport's Haribon complex here on Saturday.

Five more C-130s and the rest of the partic pants due to arrive on Monday, a Philippine Air Force official said.

The smail-scale exercise with end on Feb. 8 and precedes the large-scale training Balikatan 2006, which starts in the last week of February.

involving more than 5,000 American troops and almost the same number of Philippine soldiers, Balikatan will be heid in training camps here, in Ternate, Cavite; Sabie Bay Freeport, Zam-Fort baies; Nueva Magsaysay, Ecija; and O' Donnel reservation in Tarlac

The Staff Exercises (StaffEx) component will be held at the military's Southern Contmond headquarters in City. Zambonnga

Tonette Orejas, PDI Centrul Luson Desk

ROUNDUP SWAT sent to arrest radioman

GENERAL SANTOS CITY -- POHCE on Friday sent Special Weapons and Tactics (SWAT) team po loaman to serve the warrant of arrest on a broadcaster sued for bel by the wife of the city's former tourism officer A. gosol station manager of dxMD Radyo Agong, said nine fullyarmed members of the SWAT team

led by Chief Insp. Hermogenes. Abril accompanied two policemen to arrest Elgin Damasco, host of the

daily "Straight to the Point" public affairs program aired over the station He faces three counts of liber filed by Sarah Man, ay, wife of former tourism officer Warren Manillay

Aquiles Z. Zonio with a report from Allan A. Nawai, PDI Mindaneo Bureau

Mardi Gras highlights Cocofest

SAN PABLO CITY—A Mard. Gras, or street dancing contest, highlighted the 11th Coconul Festiva: held from Jan. 9-15 here to mark the 410th anniversary of the founding of the Parish of Saint Paul. Executive Assistant Loreto S. Amante, chair of the 2006 Coconut Festival and Fair executive committee, said the affair is now included among the tourist destinations of the Depart-

Romeio O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Serene

Artist bound for Hawaii

BAGUID CITY—Artist Art Tibatdo will go to Honorally in February to serve as a filmmaker-in-residence in an exhibit for the centenn a anniversary of Filipinos' migration to Hawaii. This came after the East-West Center's arts program invited Tibaldo to bin the "Living Cultures." of the Central Cordi leras" exhibit on at the center's gallery from February to April this year. His visual documentation of traditional practices. and rituals of the indigenous peoples of the Cordil ara will be presented at the exhibition

Desires Caluza, PDI Northern Luzon Sureen

Beach ashtrays in Puerto Galera

PUBRYO GALERA, Or ental Mindoro- At least 10 ashtrays worth 2600 each have been installed in the White Seach area here to meet the need for receptacles for a heavy volume of digarette buttlitter. Ben dela Peña, president of the Puerto Galera Unified Tour Guide Association, which is involved in the cleanup of the beach area said 15 more ashfrays will be installed

Madonna T. Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau



2 persons found dead in Laguna

VICTORIA. Laguna-The decomposing bodies of two men, earlier reported missing by the police were found floating along the lakeshore of , Barangays San Roque and Pagalangan of this town on Tuesday noon Police identified the two bodies as those of Marion Elona, 18 of Barangay Pinagbayanan, Pila, Laguna and one "Dodong" of Quezon City, investigators said the Pi a Municipal Police Station had earlier reported the two missing persons shortly after the boat they were riding capsized in the middle of Laguna de Bay

Romeio O. Ponta, PDI Southern Luzen Burenè







ALL TOGETHER NOW: The nation directorate of the country's ruling Lakes coalition meet at the Palace Saturday night estensibly to patch up the widening rift over two contentious proposals, to cut short the President's tenure and to postpone the 2007 elections.

GMA will not cut term in '07

From page Al.

members (of Lakas) applauded because it was a sign of reconcilation," Lakas spokersperson Heherson Alvarez told the Inquia-

The special meeting of the Lakas national directorate at Malacanang was prompted by Ramos' call for Ms Arroyo to cut short her term and proceed with the holding of 2007 national and local elections to clear the way for the country's shift to a full parliamentary system and provide closure to the "Hello Garci" election rigging controversy.

Ramos, in his speech at the opening of the caucus, apparently avoided a confrontation on the issue, some of those present said.

"There was no fire in his statement," Alvarez said. "It was full of praises for GMA ... He referred to GMA as the leader of our party, our beloved President many times."

Ramos' camp could not be immediately reached for comment.

Ms Arroyo also said that amending the Constitution should be one of the party's three priorities, the others being sustaining gains in the economy and easing poverty.

Cha-cha this year

We must achieve this (Charter change) by the middle of this year," she said.

unanswered the question of what should it support Ms Arroyo in she meant by Charter change by the middle of 2006.

Top Lakas leaders met before the directorate meeting apparently to thresh out contentious issues mainly about Ms Arroyo cutting short her term to pave the way for the shift to a parliamentary govemment. But it was not clear who actually took part in the pre-directorate meeting.

Senate ...

Speaker Jose de Venecia, a chief supporter of Ms Arroyo's bid to stay in office until 2010, were involved in the pre-caucus

But some Lakas lawmakers said Ms Arroyo and Presidential Political Adviser Gabriel Claudio were with Ramos and De Venecia

in the pre-caucus. Addressing the Lakas directorate, De Venecia said: "We are on the eve of a historic six months. We will see a historic transformation of the Philippines under the leadership of Lakes from a presidential form of government to a unicameral form of government."

"This has been my dream for 16 years. We have tried it before and now it looks like it will be true," said De Venecia, who has proposed a French-style transition parliamentary government under which Ms Arroyo would remain President but share some of her powers with a prime minister, who would be the chief operating

Some Lakas left out

Before the caucus, former Ifugao Rep. Gualberto Lumawig told the laquage that the meeting might result in the defeat of Ramos' proposal for Ms Arroyo to cut short her term because lakes founding members, including reforms himself, were not invited.

She did not elaborate, leaving abide by the party decision to pursue its goals. her desire to serve out her term until 2010, Lumawig said: "Knowing President Ramos, once he thinks is good for the country. he will continue to fight for it."

Administration lawmakers -Pichay and Rep. Prospero Nograles said they expected the party to resolve the issues of a shortened term for Ms Arroyo and the scrapping of

Alvarez said only Ramos and the 2007 mid-term elections as recommended by the Consultative Commission handpicked by Ms Ar-

Pichay and Nograles said the emerging consensus within the party now was to affirm the mandate of Ms Arroyo until 2010.

"I expect a solid Lakas after thus." Pichay said.

Said Nograles: "All proposals on Cha-cha will probably be given to Congress to be debated upon and discussed publicly and approved, Meanwhile, local officials will continue the people's initiative to amend the Charter in tandem with Congres."

Nograles was referring to the signature campaign which local officials identified with Ms Arroyo planned to launch to amend the Constitution

Prior to the start of the caucus, Alvarez said he expected the supposed rift between the pro-Rames and pro-Arroyo groups "to be over tonight"

"I think that Lakas would connaue to be the dominant party after this (meeting)," Aivarez said

Steeled by battles

In her speech, Ms Arroyo urged her party mates to use their "superior force" to carry out key economic, social and constitutional

She said the party needed to Asked if he expected Ramos to have "teamwork and discipline"

Ms Arroyo also brushed aside threats from various opposition groups to resume their campaign to oust her, including the revival he has decided on something that of the impeachment complaint against her

Steeled by bruising battles, we don't need add.tional training to win over our political foes in every round," she said.

She declared: "We are the superior force. Our opponents must

either toe the line of the national interest for which we stand, and fiscalize responsibly with statesmanship, or be relegated to the wayside of irrelevance or ignominy."

Ms Arroyo added: "With our heavy armory of democracy and legitimacy, we shall fight the squads of destabilizers and spoilers in the opposition."

The Lakas meeting came just ahead of the expected action by the House of Representatives on the package of Charter amendments proposed by the ConCom following two months of nationwide consultations.

A total of 67 members, including mayors and governors holding line functions, had been invited to the directorate meeting.

Draft charter

Cagayan de Oro Rep. Constantino Jaraula, chair of the House committee on constitunonal amendments, said that his "working draft" of the proposed charter to replace the 1987 Constitution would give Ms Arroyo leeway to delegate "little by little" her powers to a prime minister during the proposed transition of the country from a presidential to a parliamentary system.

During the interim period, the incumbent President shall continue to exercise the same powers as she has now, except those she will delegate to the prime minister, who shall serve as chief operating officer of the government, conformably with the parliamentary system," says Section 8 of the proposed charter's transitory provi-

Jaraula insisted his proposed Constitution, which fleshes out the French-style government proposed by De Venecia, was just a working draft. With a report from Norman Bordadora

JDV on being PM: It's in God's hands

By Michael Lim Ubac

SPEAKER JOSE DE VENECIA yesterday declared it was in the hands of God and the people if he would become the prime minister of a future parhament but said he would be a hypocrite if he said he wasn't interested in the job.

De Venecia and former President Fidel V. Ramos are the chief advocates of a proposal to dismantle the presidential system and establish a parliamentary style of government.

They differ only in that Ramos wants President Macapagal-Arroyo to step down in 2007 to make way for parliamentary elections. De Venecia wants no elections and for Ms Arroyo to serve out her full term while overseeing an interim parliamentary government.

Speaking alternately to reporters and on television, De Venecia categorically said he was leaving the matter of his fitness to become prime minister to the heavens and the people.

"Me? I have no ambition," the Speaker said, dismissing institutetions by several lawmakers that he was too obsessed with the idea. of becoming head of a proposed unicameral parliament to the point of antagonizing Ramos, his longtime ally.

De Venecia said: "I have been fighting for (Charter change) for 15 years, I have been a relentless advocate of Charter reform and a shift to parliamentary system."

Give others a crack

"Let them have the first crack" at the post, he said, referring to Senate President Franklin Drilon,

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., Sen. Edgardo Angara, and even Ms Arroyo.

"There are others who are more experienced, wiser and dedicated," he stressed, but quickly added: "I don't want to be hypocritical that I don't want to be prime minister."

There are things that only God will decide."

'Might as well migrate'

Should his efforts to shift the form of government to a parliamentary system fail, then there was no more hope for the country, he said.

"Wala na (It's finished). We might as well migrate," he said.

De Venecia on Wednesday proposed the adoption of the Prench parliamentary model as a "winwin" solution to the controversy over whether the country should change its system of government.

Under the French model, the, country would have a strong president assisted by a prime minister who will be the chief operating officer of the government.

Separate powers

Under the setup, the president is elected by the people to a fiveyear term, wields great power, especially on foreign policy, and appoints the prime minuter.

Although a presidential appointee, the prime minister would wield most of the executive power. He will direct government operations, control the civil service and the Armed Porces, and ensure the implementation of laws. With a report from Cyril L. Bonabente, PDI Research

US paper...

From page Al

circulation of about half a mil-

Copies of the editorial, as printed from the paper's website, were handed out to reporters by the Department of Poreign Affairs' media service office.

"A troubling case"

In its editorial, the Chronicle observed that the "troubling case" of the Marines charged with raping a 22-year-old woman in the Philippines "has justifiably sparked outrage among Filipinos at home and abroad." "In this case, our (US) military

leaders have a legal and moral obligation to investigate the case aggressively and enforce punishment if the men are indeed guilty," the Chronicle added.

It said that while the RP-US Visiting Forces Agreement "places

troops under US protection, it doesn't place them above the law."

Custody issue

The editorial, however, noted that under the VFA "the (accused) men are allowed to remain in US custody until the hearings are concluded"-a position being upheld by the US Embassy in Manila despite the Philippine government's request to hand over the soldiers to Pilipino authorities

Ouoting reports in Manila, the Chronicle said that under the same agreement, "if the judicial proceedings take longer than a year, the US government would not be obligated to turn the Marines over to Phinppine authornties."

Two scenarios

Justice Secretary Raul Gonzaiez yesterday unveiled two legal scenarios should the US Embassy refuse to hand over the servicemen despite arrest warrants issued by an Olongapo judge.

Gonzalez said the United States could hand over the four accused to the US ambassador or, in his absence, the charge d' affaires, for "recognizance"-or grant them bail if the evidence of guilt was not yet strong. Speaking on his regular radio

program "Hustisiya Para Sa Lahat (Justice for All)" over radio dwlZ, Gonzalez said should the turnover of the accused not push through, he was "almost convinced" that the US Embassy "will submit them for trial."

Principle of bail

"What happens there is they would be on recognizance," Gonzalez said. "Under our rules of court, under the principle of ball, one of the modes of bail is recogmzance, where one person is placed in the custody of a prominent person and that person in, custody will answer for his presence during the trial."

The setup is similar to the principle that when one posts bail, his bondsman "will answer for him" before the court, Gonzalez said. The bondsman will not be jailed, but certain sanctions could be imposed on him should the accused fail to appear during trial.

Recognizance is "one of the" modes of remporary liberty," he,

Gonzalez said that although under the law "any prominent person can serve as a guaranton for the presence at the trial of the accused, the same situation cannot be applied to Staff Sgt. Chad Brian Carpentier and Lance Corporals Daniel Smith, Keith Silkwood and Dominic Duplantis.

Sister brew dethrones RP's king of beers

initiative law. The executive branch has no say From page A1

From page Ail

in it. But the GMA-FVR-JDV troiks acts as if it is the Senate," Arroyo said in an interview.

Arroyo was referring to President Macapagal-Arroyo, former President Fidel V. Ramos and Speaker Jose de Venecia, who had met to try to iron out their differences over the proposed shift to a parhamentary government

Arroyo said the trio had been regaled the public with "their inanities" on how to amend the 1987 Constitution, "as if they have a say or influence on the Senate, where the Cha-cha battle ground would be."

Jealous lot

Arroyo claimed that the Lakas trio's influence on senators, whether individually or collectively, was "nil."

"In a crunch, GMA perhaps would at most have four senators on her side, FVR at most two, JDV zero. How can they make arrangements, when most of the senators can't be influenced by them on the matter, especially since it centers on how they can remain in power? Senators are a jezdous lot," Arroyo added.

Arroyo also noted that most of those favoring Charter change were lakas staiwarts while Ms Arroyo "is the only outsider."

Will outfox them all

"Yet, she will outfox and outlast them all," he predicted.

Independent Sen. Richard Gordon also said a mouthful.

"I'm chagrined by what's happening. Just like Marcos, they're trying to dictate their will upon us. How dare they?" Gordon said in a phone interview.

"The President and Ramos are trying to transact with each other to get their interests forward. If FVR wants Gloris out, he should have her impeached. They should not compromise the fundamental law of the land. We

atill have 2007." This is a vaudeville show being presented before us. This is just PR work."

on suggested retail prices. Interestingly, Red Horse was launched in 1982, or a year after taspan

cent in September 2005.

To be sure, SMC has maintained its share of the Philippine beer market at over 90 percent But the largest food and beverage

firm in the country is taking Pale Pilsen's shrinking market share as a bad omen for its continued dominance of the mar ket that it founded in 1890 That Pale Pilsen has lost its throne,

albeit to a sister brand, shows that the Filipino beer has shed its invincibility and that the SMC market was now vulnerable to local and foreign competition

SMC officials declined requests for an interview.

Warding off competition

For over a century, San Miguel Pale Pilsen had successfully warded off brash competition-from the Americans and Japanese in the Commonwealth period to the Oriental Brewery and Ice Co. (owned by the Catholic Recollect Order), Balintawak Beer Brewery, Halili Beer, the Olondriz family's mill-born Philippine Brewery Co., and

Asia Brewery Inc. But for all that, it is now losing to its sibling, a lower-priced beer targeted at

P40 for the 1-liter bottle, Red Horse is roughly 5 percent cheaper than Pale Pilsen. Plus, beer drinkers get more kick for their peso from Red Horse, which has the highest alcohol content among local beers at 6.8 percent versus Pale Pilsen's

At P15 for the 330-milliliter bottle and

down to the masses, more Filipinos are cent of San Miguel Beer's prices based

4-5 percent.



switching brands to get more value for their money even if it means eschewing

their traditional brew. Strong beer drinkers are mostly in the class B-C-D market and are the main target of brewers.

Not pricing alone

But pricing alone cannot explain why Red Horse has surpassed Pale Pilsen.

After all, Asia Brewery has consistently sold its products-Colt 45, Beer With economic gains failing to filter na Beer and Lone Star-at 10-20 per-

pitch for Red Horse five years ago. At the time, Asia Brewery's strong beer brand, Colt 45, was slowly building a

cult following among the 18- to 30year-olds-the industry's fastest growing market. To nip Asia Brewery's Colt 45's rise in the bud, SMC focused its huge marketing and distribution resources on Red Horse. But in the process, it left its

flagship Pale Pilsen out in the cold.

SMC started making an aggressive

Shift in taste

SMC is reportedly moving to push the flagship brand back to its old status by enticing dealers with a bevy of incentives, such as buying three bottles and getting one free.

Aside from economics, the drop in Pale Pilsen's market share is seen at a marked shift in taste of Filipino beer drinkers, who are now not keen on quaffing their grandfathers' brew. Drinking Pale Pilsen has become un-

cool, especially with a bar full of beer choices not only from SMC's ice chest (Red Horse, San Mig Light, San Miguel Super Dry, San Mig Strong Ice, Cerveza Negra and San Miguel Draft) but also from Asia Brewery and other foreign brews.

Since the 1990s, traditional beers in Asia have steadily lost their grip on their dominant position in markets such as Japan, South Korea and Thailand.

It looks like it is only a matter of time before San Miguel Pale Pilsen gets swamped by the tectonic shift in customer preference in the region.

7677

CHEERLEADERS

of his Thai rival,

number one

seed Danai

Udomchake,

Mamiit as he

wins the termis

gold, not once

POIPHOTO

but twice.

cheer Cecil

At last, a celebration of national pride and unity

From page Al

days what their leaders in politics and government managed to destroy all year.

Much like in Greece when wars and conflicts made way for the ancient Olympic Games every four years, combatants in the political arena called a ceasefire while much of the public's attention was on the SEA Games.

Who can forget that moment at the Rizal Memorial Sports Complex when former President Corazon Aquino, who had called on President Macapagal-Arroyo to resign, sat almost next to First Gentieman Mike Arroyo in the stands?

They were watching the daughter of Rene and Dulce Saguisag, Joseph Estrada's lawyer and Cabinet member, respectively, win a medal in gymnastics. Divided by their political persuasions, they were one in rooting for the tiny Caissa Saguisag.

Sterling performances

To be sure, competition in the SEA Games, the biennial gathering of the region's best athletes, was far from world-class despite the presence of world-class competitors in such events as bowling, billiards and badminton.

But the Games were not wanting in sterling performances. Diver Shiela Mae Perez, swimmer Miguel Mohna, rower Benjamin Tolentino and cue artist Alex Pagulayan won with distinction and aplomb. They captured three gold medals each.

Maria Cecilia Yap, the women's singles gold medalist in bowling, and Markwin Ty, the masters champion, scored two of the three perfect games recorded in the tournament.

There were unforgettable images: of Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski on all fours after being thrown off a borrowed horse and getting back on the saddle later in the day to ride with her team toward a gold medal in team equestrian; of the ageless John Baylon winning his eighth straight gold medal in judo; of Cecil Manuat hamming it up with Thai cheerleaders at the height of cheating allegations after his men's tennis singles victory; of the country's much maligned football team stirring to life from a long slumber and rexindling new local hope for the world's most popular

Beyond expectations, the Filipino Athletes won a total of 113 gold medals, 84 silvers and 94 bronzes, each medal a story of triumph over adversity and collectively a message that they will be kicked around no longer

Hurdling the odds

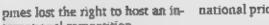
No one hurdled taller odds than did the Filipino Athletes Hounded by the usual problems of lack of funds, madequate training facilities and the endless bickering of their leaders, the athletes plodded on all year.

Some of them succeeded, some failed, and some never got to see action at all.

Basketball fans did not get to see their heroes win another gold in the SEA Games. The sport stumbled and did not recover, the ball fumbled by politicians who had never played the game. Suspended by the international federation when years of simmering conflict came to a boil, the Baskerball Association of the Philip-



EUREKA! Gilbert Ramirez gets the judo gold after beating his That opponent in Mandaue City.



ternational competition Of course, some sports leaders couldn't care less. It was just one gold medai less, and there were 444 more golds to be won.

There were other dark mo-

Sportsmanship took the back seat in the centerpiece event-track and field-when the country's top distance runner, in a last-ditch effort to win the gold, blocked the lane of his fastapproaching Thai rival and was promptly disqualified.

The sport's rabbie-rousing leader, notorious for biting off more than he could chew, fell way short of his well-publicized target in the two sports he headed. Disgraced, he choked on his own

A near riot erupted in the boxing finals in Bacolod City over what the locals described as unfair scoring by the foreign judges, and the Filipmo finalist had to be pulled out of the bout and the gold handed over to his Thai opponent, to defuse the explosive

Three of the country's top bilhard players felt they were bigger than the event and opted to compete elsewhere--for money, of course. Those who were left to pick up the banner showed there was no dearth of talents tion for Filipinos to show the who would play, and win, for world what they were capable of.

national pride.

Fair and square Then there was the attempt to denigrate the Filipinos' inexorable march to sporting giory with allegations of cheating.

Unsportsmanlike and unstatesmanlike, the comments from That leader Thaksin Shinawatra-sitting in the comfort of his palace in Bangkok--were promptly disowned by That sports leaders who knew better because they were in the battlefront of competition.

The That deputy prime minister came over and, within nunutes of landing in Manila, witnessed Filmino tennis star Cecil Mamiit whip his Thai opponent in the men's singles final fair and square.

If at all, Thaksin's comments only fired up Team Philippines in its final drive for the overall medal championship, an unprecedented achievement that came so tantalizingly close in 1991, the last time the Philippines had enough resources to host the event.

in the end, the Filipinos would not be denied. Reverberating in the grandstands of most venues of the SEA Games were the slogan "Pinoy ako, Pinoy tayo," lyrics from the theme of the hit television reality show and an exhorta-



DOWN BUTNOT OUT, Mikee Cojuangco-Jaworski got right up, got back on the saddle and galloped with her equestrian team toward a gold medal.

Other nominees are winners, too

IN CHOOSING THE FILIPING OF THE YEAR, the Inquirer honors a living Filipino who made the most positive impact on the life of the nation for the year just past

Now on its 15th year, the honor was first awarded in 1991 to Raymundo Punongbayan, since passed on, for his nerote and addigle-handed effort to save lives after the Mount Pinarubo eruptions.

The incurrent editors made an exception in 2004 when they voted nearly unanimously to honor presidential candidate and movie king Fernando Poe Jr. who had died a few weeks earlier.

For the 2005 halloting, Team Philippines got the votes of more than half of the editors, garnering 16 of the 30 votes cast to become the second Filipino of the Year honoree from sports (boxing hero Manny Pacquiao did it in 2003).

The next nominees—the Overseas Filipino Workers and the independent Filipino film producers garnered four votes each.

The OFWs, voted Filipino of the Year in 1994, once again proved to be a lifesaver, rescuing the Philippine economy from a politically induced coma with an injection of ballions of dollars in remittances

that stopped the peso's free fall and turned it into a healthy currency by the time the new year arrived.

The "indies," as the independent filmmakers were nicknamed after Robert Redford's Sundance Inches film fest, were personified by Maximo Oliveros, the title character of a low-budget hur internationally acclaimed digital movie. They defied overwhelming odds and came up with quality films that would have earned them the Filipmo of the Year accolade in other years.

Three central figures in what had been a turbulent year in politics were also nominated

The "Hyatt 10," the group of key government officials who resigned in the wake of the "Helio Garci" scandal, got three votes, while President Macapagal-Arroyo got one

"Garcí" himself, the former election commissioner Virgilio Garcillano, was nominated—as a joke-and received one serious vote.

Also nominated and getting a vote were husband-and-wife physicists Christopher and Marivic Bernido, educators from an obscure private school in Jagna, Bohol, who developed the highly effective Dynamic Learning Process which emphasizes learning by doing and earning by pseudo play.





Who's Maximo Oliveros, why's he a big deal?

By Bayani San Diego Jr.

WHY IS "MAXIMO OLIVEROS" SUCH a big deal?

Let us count the ways: He represents Filipino Independent. digital illimmakers who are making waves all over the world. He embodies their travalls and triumphs, their dreams

and determination against all odds. The filmmakers behind "Maximo" have shown that it is possible to make a "surprise hit" (it earned over P4 million in its first week) on a measty budget (it was made with P1 million), shooting in the sturns of Sampaloc in just 13 days.

with a mini-DV camera. Born in a dying movie industry, 'Maximo" then proceeded to do the Im-

 The movie proved that a small indle film could, by "healthy word of mouth," run for three weeks in local the aters—braving compatition both big

IN THE TITLE role, Nathan Lopez and IR Valentin co-star in a movie born to revive a dying industry.

("King Kong") and small ("Chicken Lit-

 it proved that a small india film could, by the sheer simplicity of its story and the power of its message, win awards both here and abroad.

As of last count, "Maximo" has won: The Special Jury Prize from the Cinemalaya Independent Film Festival; The Golden Zenith award at the Mostreal World Film Fastival, the Best Picture honor at the ImagineNATIVE Film Festival (in Toronto), and the Best Film award at the Asian Festival for Pirst Films (in

Next stop for "Madmo" is the World Chema section of Robert Rectord's

It will make history as the first Fillpino feature film to compete at Sundance, perceived as the first and biggest independent film fastival in the world.

It is also slated to be shown at the Hong Kong and San Francisco film fasti-

Other indies to watch "Maximo" is the symbol of a string of India products that have brought home prizes from the international film (estival circuit

They are: -Britante Mendoza's "Masahista." which won the Golden Leopard award at the Locarno Film Festival, tying for the top video prize with "Let Etats

Nordiques," directed by Denis Cots of Canada. "Masahista" was similarly invited to various film festivais near (Hong Kong and Bangkok) and far (Greece and Estonia).

--- Pice !larde's "Sa lialim ng Cogon," which won Best Film at the Rojo Sangre Horror Plim Festival in Suanes Aires, Argenting, "Cogon" was also shown in Cinenygma in Luxembourg last Novem-

--- Mark Reyes' "Last Full Show," which was named Best Short Film in Turin,

-- Khavn's "Lata at Teinelas," which was awarded a "Special Mention" by the Associazione Culturale Zert in the "Spazio kmmagini" competition of the Morbegno

Film Festival, also in Italy. -Lav Diaz's over 10-hour epic "Ebo-

tusyon ng Isang Pamilyang Pilipino," Urlan's Best Film last year, which was shown in at least four countries in Europe in October and November (the 32nd Randers International Rim Festival In Sherit, Beiglam; the Vienna Internationa: Film Festival in Austria; the House of World Cultures in Berlin, Germany. and the 23rd Torino Film Festival in

 The preteen gay hero of Auraeus Solito's "Ang Pagdadalaga ni Maximo Oliveros" exemplifies the best in Fillpinos—his unconditional love for and loyalty to his family, his graceful grit and gritty grace in the face of macho violence and Third World poverty, his cheary optimism and willful desire "to make every life he touches beautiful."

"Maximo" teaches us to "accept and embrace people who may seem differ-".au mot) the

"Maximo" makes us realize that love for family, often blamed for Fliphos' faults and folloies (their susceptibility to corruption and criminality, for one), could also recisem us as a people. quirer Entertainment

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Makati launches green revolution

By Tarra V. Quismundo

INSIDE MAKATI CITY'S FIVE GOVERNMENTrun "green shelters," each flower, plant and sapling is bringing the country's financial center closer to realizing its dream of becoming a lush urban garden.

"We want to maximize our capacity to propagate plants, that's why we established these nurseries. That's why we are fast tracking our greening projects now... we want to see the city really green by the end of the year," said Danilo Vilias, head of Makati's Department of Environmental Services (DES). The agency is in charge of the city's waste management and greening programs.

The five plant nurseries were put up in 1992 to support the city government's greening projects. The idea then was for Makati to grow its own ornamental plants and trees for its beautification program.

The main nursery is in Barangay West Rembo, inside the Makati Park and Garden, an eightyear-old facility that has been supplying the park's landscaping and greening requirements.

The other nurseries can be found at the old Pamantasan ng Makati compound on Gil Puyat Avenue, and in Barangays Rizal, Cembo, and Southside. Tending the greenhouses are 14 trained workers who regularly undergo seminars on current technologies in plant ses Camacho. propagation.

Protection from air pollution

Amid an environment teeming with carbon monoxide, the city's plant nurseries have ornamental plants," Donato said.

grown into formidable green air filters.

This is for aesthetics and the beautification of the city. The principle is, plants and trees absorb carbon dioxide, and it helps in cleaning up the air," said Lydia Donato, DES Parks and Green Division deputy chief.

Makati's goal is to reach the ideal tree-topeople ratio of one is to four (1:4), as set by the Department of Environment and Natural

Right now, the city boasts of a ratio of one tree for every six persons, said Camacho.

50 different varieties

Donato estimated that at present, the city's greenhouses grow roughly 50 plant and tree varieties, including narra, mahogany, balete, banaba, molave, and eucalyptus saplings and ornamental plants like gumamelas, margaritas, lantanas, rubias, adelfas, alamandas, yellow sundrops, and bandera españolas.

"[The nurseries] are not yet enough for all the city's requirements, but they have been a big help... the city has been able to save (money) because instead of buying plants, we could get plants from there," said Villas.

"They are particularly helpful whenever we are in immediate need of plants for maintenance... to replenish those that have died," said DES Parks and Green Division chief Mor-

"Right now, we are aiming to be self-sufficient in supplying (plants) for our greening projects... there would come a day when we would no longer have to purchase saplings or



"GREEN thumbs" Mary Honrado and Myrna Colambo are among the 14 workers who keep Makati City green. EMINIMENTAL

That day may be drawing near, as the nurseries exceeded their annual propagation rate last year. Donato said the greenhouses were able to grow some 106,000 potted plants in 2005, exceeding the yearly target of 100,000

the West Rembo plant nursery, a backyard compost system, has been providing the greenhouses with fertiliz-

To further boost the city's plant propagation capacity, the DES will open another nursery at the Ayala

Sewerage Plant inside Magallanes Village, a joint project with the Manila Water Company Inc. Camacho said the nursery will open on Feb. 1

That would be our biggest plant nursery. They allotted a portion of a vacant lot there... we would use An in-house composting facility at roughly one hectare," Camacho said.

Bright hopes

Asked about the nurseries' prospects, Villas only had the brightest and greenest hopes.

"As soon as the nurseries become self-sufficient, and they are able to

supply all of the city's requirements, then it's possible that we would open them to residents. That would be an advantage for the city because we have been encouraging residents to also plant in their backyards," said Villas.

In time, he envisioned, Makati would be a garden city, with a plant growing even in the smallest of

"Every available space should be a mini plant nursery-center islands, sidewalks, even fences and walls. We should keep planting," said Villas.



Over 100 books and counting...

TALES OF

By DJ Yap

SHE WAS SINGING "TWINKLE, TWINKLE Little Star" to one-month-old Maria Angelica when she heard something that both shocked and delighted her: The baby was humming along with her

At that moment, Clarinda Martinez and her husband, Arturo, a businessman, knew that something was special about their little "Angel."

At two, the young girl told her parents reciting her ABCs had started to them, since genius is not known to run in bore her. She then proceeded to say it backwards: "Z,Y,X,W...," and so on.

At three, Angel began to write "books" fashioned from sheets of bond paper stapled together. Her stones told of knights and princesses who shuttled between fantasy and reality as they bore the traits of her mom, her dad, her friends and all those dear to her

Now five, Angel has written almost a difficult words," she said. hundred of these stones-and she wants to write more.

her life, experiences, and the things she has read. But they show a level of sophistication not normally found in a child who's not even old enough to cross the street by herself

During a visit to their house in Quezon City, Angel told the Inquirer: "I want to be a writer, a doctor and an archeologist when I grow up."

ple... and an archeologist because I want to will evaluate her skills," he said.

study old stuff like pyramids in Egypt," she said. But most of all, Angel said she wants to write. Since learning how to use a penand paper, the little girl has devoted most of her free time to writing, said Clarinda.

Angel was born on July 5, 2000 after three years of waiting by her parents who

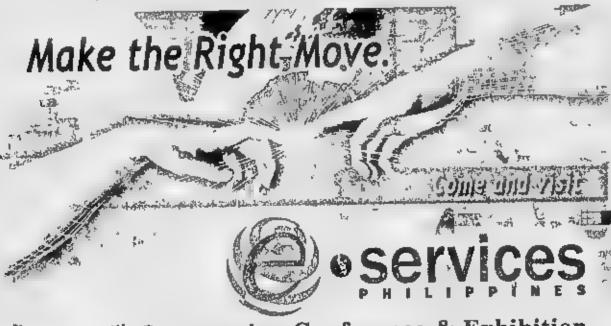
had had trouble conceiving, said her mother, who works at the East West Bank head office in Makati City.

THE CITY Where Angel got her extraordinary abilities is a mystery to either Clarinda or her husband's side of the family. "You can say we are above average (in intelligence) but not exceptional (like Angel)," added the proud mother.

A kindergarten pupil at St. Paul College of Quezon City, Angel is easily the "most inrelligent in the class," according to her teacher Kate Ortiz. "She is very advanced for her age. She already knows how to read

Ortiz said she has asked Angel's parents to take her to a school for the gifted, or skip They are mostly short paragraphs about the preparatory school by taking the admission exams for Grade 1. She added that St. Paul does not have a system for accelerating outstanding students.

Angel has not yet taken an IQ (intelligence quotient) test and other diagnostic exams, said Arturo. They only decided recently to have her tested for possible entry to a school for the gifted, he added. "In January, a doctor "I want to be a doctor to help sick peo- from the Philippine Association for the Gifted



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METROBRIEFS

Fire hits empty house

AN hour-long fire guitted a three-story house in Pasay City yesterday morning, leaving 23 taho vandors homeless. Insp. Leo Andiso told the Inquirien that the fire started at the ceiling of the house on E. Rodriguez corner M. Deta Cruz streets shortly after 10 a.m. "An electrical short-circuit or an unattended appuance could have caused the fire," Andiso said, noting that the house was empty when the blaze started. No one was reported injured or killed in the fire which damaged P250,000 Jocalyn R. Uy worth of property.

Cop kills another cop

A POLICEMAN manning a checkpoint as part of the intensified police night watch was shot dead yesterday by alleged robbers, one of whom turned out to be another policeman. PO3 Orlando Baiasta, 32, died after he was shot in the forehead on the R-10 Road in Tondo, Police exter arrested suspects PO2 Rosvalando Cruz, 32 and Jayson Lianos, 25. Cruz was assigned at the Eastern Police District Headquarters Support Group, although he has not been reporting for work, police said. The suspects held up taxi driver Dante Hernandez, 43, at about 12:30 a.m. yesterday. They took his earnings and pushed him out of the vehicle. When Hernandez chanced Joon Balasta at a checkpoint, the poticemen gave chase but was shot by the suspects. The gunshots, however, attracted the attention of nearby policemen. Outnumbered, the suspects gave themselves up. Edgon C. Tandos Jr.

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Editor Teddyvic S. Melendres

Text us your feedback: inquirer sprt name/age/city/message to 2207 (Globe) or 283 (Smart)

Pacquiao overhauled, is ready for Morales

By Recah Trinidad

LOS ANGELES-IN HIS BID TO prime up boxing superstar Manny Pacquiao, trainer Freddie Roach has ordered changes, like a mechanic working to overhaul a special racing car.

Shifts have been ordered in Pacquiao's fight plan for his monumental rematch against Enk Morales in Las Vegas next week.

"Daming binabaga (There were many changes)," Pacquao, wearing a baby beard, bared after dinner of fish broth, rice and broiled chicken in his second-floor flat at the gated Palazzo Mansions here yes-

The overhaul, definitely vita, is being cooked up behind closed

against two sparmates, a Russian welterweight and a Mexican lightweight, yesterday.

Are they concentrating on technical changes or purely loading up on power and speed? "Basta utak sa utak, sabayan tto (It will a battle of brains, a

fight to the end)," Pacquiao confided to the Inquirer yesterday.

Is he finally using more of his right hand, a promised weapon which he failed to explode in Pacquiao-Morales 1 last March?

Sorry, Pacquiao begged as he explained he was not at liberty to drvulge a single detail of the re-

vised battle plan. He did not say it but, in a way, Pacquiao was confirming some slips

in the first fight last March, when he had told the Incumen his plain plan to rush out and run over Morales.

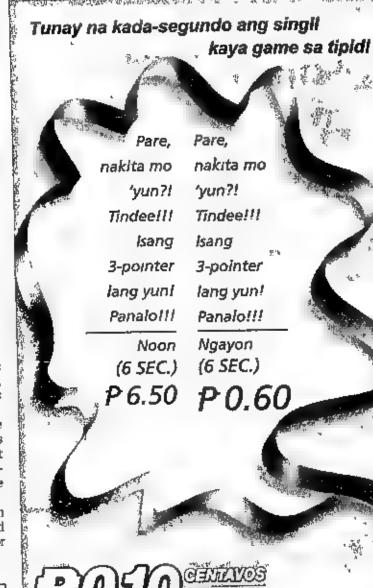
After the first loss, Pacquiao no longer has to be told the second fight would be doubly trying

What could not be kept secret though was the awesome form Pacquiao has achieved since reporting at Wild Card Dec. 3 and going through a Spartan regimen that had kept him away from his family during the houdays.

Pacquiao was twice as sharp and quick compared to the first time he fought Morales, attested Noii Cruz, boxing division head of the Games and Amusements Board.

Cebu sportsman Rex Wakee Salud, whose ward Jimrex Jaca is seeing action in the Pacquiao fight undercard, swore Pacquiao's abdommal muscles felt as though they've been carved out of solid rock.

Curiously, nothing much has been heard from the camp of Morales, said to be also killing himself in training for Pacquiao in the Mexican outskirts.



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Pacman strains left forearm

LOS ANGELES—MANNY PACQUIAO HAS Amusements Board. been advised not to overwork his left forearm which he had strained after it hit the head of a sparmate a week ago.

"There's no problem, that strain would heal fully in time for the fight, but it needs a little rest," said Dr. Nasser Cruz of the Games and

doors, away from the prying eyes of

spectators and suspected scouts at

the famed Wild Card Gym where

Pacquiao banged it up for six rounds

Cruz said it was good that the strain occurred after Pacquiao has almost concluded his sparring

We were in the gym yesterday, but we were also requested to step out when Manny was sparring," Cruz said.

Cruz described Pacquiao as being in the finest form of his career. "He's in excellent shape and should be able to go for 15 rounds a against Morales."

He said the left arm strain would not bother Pacquiao during the fight, given the proper Recah Trinidad



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What makes the Ford Everest Summit such a prize catch? Luxurious leather seats. Flashy trim, integrated fog lamps A distinctive pumper over-rider. A sleek spare tire cover with lock. And side graphics that project a sporty look (A roof rack is an option for maximum cargo capacity.) All of this adds incredible value to an already powerful SUV; which is enough to make everybody scramble to get one. Unfortunately, less than a hundred families will actually succeed

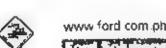






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SundaySports

Tribesmen, Braves enter finals of NBC invitational

PAGADIAN CITY—SKYGO/SIRLITZbacked Tribu Sugbu thwarted arch nval and reigning NBC champion Ozamuz Cotta, 81-77, Friday to gain the finals of the Mayor Sammy Co Invitational basketball tournament here.

Nicilao and Miguelito Ducay scored ner to make it 77-78. But that

the insurance baskets which gave the Tribesmen the chance to take their third straight title in the Nature's Spring-NBC pre-season series

After Nicdao's basket gave Tribu a 78-74 lead in the last 34 seconds, Former Ozamiz player Christian Melfred Sampilo dramed a 3-pon-

turned out to be Ozamiz's last goal. "We'l, go all-out to win our third

ntie," said Tribu coach Al Solis. Gov. Manny P.ñol's North Cotabato Braves outlasted an undermanned Valencia squad to with 97-92 and earn the right to challenge Tribu for the crown.

Michael Erata led the Braves anew with 15 points. Valencia led 20-19 and 43-35 in the first two quarters but lost steam in the final half because it had only nine players.

The event is supported by Sulpicio Lines, Spring Cooking Oil, Molten and Prime Channel

TRIBU 85-Mercado 16, Calinglet 15. Ducay 13, Almadin 11 Micdao 8, Ursai 7 Calo 3, Butat 3, Sevilla 2, Luga 1 Yabut 0 DZAMIZ 77-Banal 17, Basco 16, Samplo 16, llange 7, Guerrero S, Agullar S, Ibelog S, Cavan 3, De Leon 2, Cabiglés 2, Delina 0, Alvarado 8

Quarters: 20-21 36-41, 58-57, 81-77

WORTH CUTAGATO 97-Erata 15, Jawod 11, Bines 10, Martinez 10, Reyes 10, Del Norte 9, Dagetan 6, Clar 5, Sansant 5, Cabanog 5, Lique 5, Tarrigus 2, Mejorda 2, Coronado 2 VALENCIA 92 Nevales 20 Cruz 19,

Romaguera 16, Clavel 13, Yaugates 9, Cablil 7 Braga 5, Adams 2, Gesar 0 Quarters, 19-20, 35-43, 87-65, 97-92

Toyota wins as Wizards, **Painters** gain semis

QAMES TODAY (San Andree Byen, Monde) 2 p.m. - Magnolia ve Harbour Centre 4 p.m.—Montaña va Rain or Shine

TOYOTA OTIS, PLAYING WITH NOTHING BUT bragging rights at stake, nipped Hapee-PCU, 61-54, to give Magnolia Ice Cream and Rain or Shane free rides to the semafinals of the 2006 PBL Heroes Cup last night before another huge crowd at the San Andres Gym in Manila.

The Wizards and Elasto Painters can thank Boyet Bautista and Aaron Aban for their outright entries to the semis as they keyed Toyota's backbreaking run late in the game.

Toyota's win likewise afforded Granny Goose Tortillos a twice-to-beat advantage in the quarterfinal round no matter what happens in today's two remaining matches

Actually, Granny Goose and Hapee finished the elims with 6-5 records, but the Snackmasters emerged the No. 3 qualifier because of a superior quotient

In today's matches, Magnolia battles Harbour Centre in the first game while Rain or Shine collides with Montaña Pawnshop.

Both Magnolia and Rain or Shine have similar 7-3 records while Harbour and Montaña

tote 5-5 cards The Knights wound up the class with a 3-8 record, the same record of Far Eastern Insurance, which bowed to Granny Goose, 66-88, earlier.

Harbour and Montaña could still forge a four-way me for third to sixth places with Granny Goose and Hapee if they prevail over atheir fancied rivels.

If that happens, the Snackmasters will still secure the No. 3 spot while the Port Masters and Jewels fight it out for the No. 4 position. In that case, Granny Goose will face No. 6

Hapee while the Port Masters and Jewels collide in a virtual best-of-three series. But if Harbour and Rain or Shine prevail to-

day, Hapee will forge a playoff with the Port Masters for the No. 4 spot

JR Quiñahan scored all his seven points in the third quarter as the Snackmasters finished the elims with a 6-5 record.

Jet Latonio, Axel Doruelo and Mike Gavino then scored five points each that left Far Eastem Insurance coach Bong dela Cruz shaking his head in utter disgust over the team's seem-

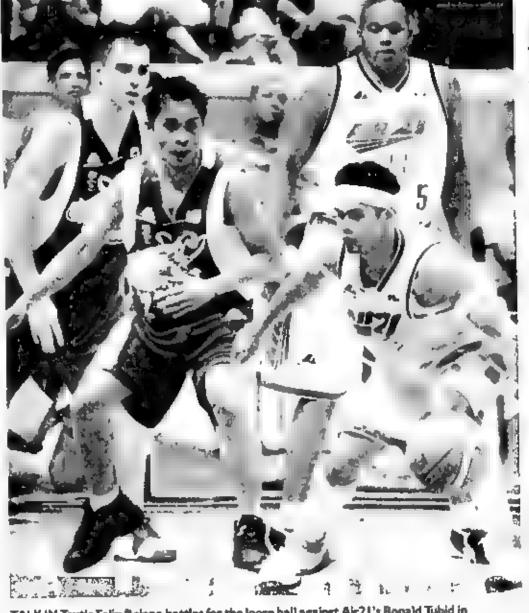
ing lack of intensity in defense. Granny Goose took several 17-point leads before settling for a 68-53 advantage going into the final 10 minutes.

The spores. Second Barne

TOYOTA OTIS 61-Abon 21, Bautista 14 Das 6, Devance S. Larong 4, Audave 3, Andaya 3, Rodríguez 2, Capat. 2. Oreta O. Alcerez O.

HAPEE-PCU 54-Espinas 12, Beiga 9, Gonzales B, Sanz 7, Moreno 6, Castro 6, Soils 3, Razon 2, Misa 0, Cecitia 0, Gioria 0.

Dearters: 13-18, 31-27, 44-41, 61-54



TALK 'N Text's Felix Belanc battles for the loose ball against Air 21's Ronald Tubid in yesterday's game I of the quarterfinals.

2 Toyota cars up for grabs in Konica Minolta Pro-Am

ALREADY AWASH IN CASH with its record P17 million pot, the Konsca Minolta National Pro-Am on Feb. 7-11 will yet offer two Toyota cars as holein-one prizes at Riviera.

Danny Isla, the senior vice president of Toyota Motor Philipomes, said Toyota will always be happy to be part of a tournament as prestigious as the Konica. Minoka National Pro-Am."

Isla said Toyota will stake one vehicle, "possibly a Fortuner," on Feb. 7 for the Celebrity Pro-Am, Another Toyota vehicle will be up for grabs during the tournament proper on Feb. 8-11.

From the very start since this fabled tournament was revived by Mr. (Bert) Bravo of U-Bix in 2001, Toyota feit honored to have been invited in this historic undertaking," said Isla, "We intend to continue doing so each time our presence is needed."

From 2001 to 2005, Toyota



has been staking two vehicles in the tournament resurrected in 2001 after a hiatus of nearly a decade by Bravo, who chaus the executive committee again with Benny Gopez, president of the National Golf Association of the Philippines, with retired commodore Danny Pizarro, the Riviera president, as organizing committee chair

Gerard Cantada and amateur partner JR Tanpinco will gun for a historic third straight victory

against a field that reads like a who's who in both pro and amateur ranks in the country.

Noli Kempis and Erwin Vinluan won in 2001 at Riviera's Langer and Raul and Paul Minoza in 2002 at Couples.

Cantada and Tanpinco won in 2004 at Langer when the purse in 2003 had been added to breach the P1-million mark, repeating in 2005, also at Langer, to become the first back-to-back champions in the tournament backed by Grapos's, Pivo Praha and S-Yard.

The tournament, which began in 1958 as the Fort Borufacio National Pro-Am but got stricken off when the government privatized Fort Bonifacio, calls for a tandem to hit one bai alternately over four days of competition.

Contact the NGAP at 525-6987, email: ngapgolf@hotmail.com or visit the NGAP website www.ngap.net. Cal. Riviera at (046) 414-2868/2837

New import lifts Barako past Aces

By June Navarro

JAMES PENNY PROVED HIS worth as last-minute replacement by leading Red Bull Barako to a 100-92 win over Alaska yesterday at the start of the San Mig Coffee-PRA Fiesta Conference quarterfinals at the Araneta Coliseum.

Penny, who took over from the high scoring Quemont Greer, scored 24 points on top of eight rebounds, three assists, one steal and a block in his debut.

"Before the game, we're very much worried how he (Penny) would fare," said Red Buli Barako coach Yeng Guiao after taking the opener of the best of five quarterfinal series. "I guess we made the right decision after all."

Willie Milier hit back-to-back triples to lift Talk 'N Text to a 111-109 decision of Air21 in the second game.

Red Bull decided to try out Penny after losing the team's playoff for an outright semifinal berth against Barangay Ginebra. The 6-foot-5 former Texas Christian University star had been practicing with the Barako since the Christmas houdays.

"He's not a heavy scorer like Q but he's giving the team the chemGAMES TODAY (Araneta Collisions) 4:10 p.m. Air21 vs Talk N Text 8:30 p.m.—Red Bull vs Aleska.

istry that we need by getting the locals involved," added Ginao of the 29-year-old Penny, a journeyman.

Penny actually scored 16 points in the second half, highlighted by a three-point play and a tomahawk slam from 12 feet that ripped the game wide open, 86-77

The scores: First Game

RED BULL 108-Penny 24, Tugade 22, Villanueva 14, visienzuela 11 Baguto 10, Torion 8, Najorda 6, Biu gia 2, Robinson 2, Cruz 1

ALASKA 92-Aliado 20. Bradley 16. Cortez 13. Thosa 10, Carlago 10. DELA CRLZ 9, Hughatan 7, Alvaraz 4 Cabiay 3. Quarters 24-14, 45-45, 73-69, 100-92

Second Game TALK N TEXT 111-Belanc 22, Cantrell 21, Alapag 18, Miller 14. Avenido 11 Telan 11, Taulava 10. Pablo 4 Gelig 0,

AIR21 109 David 25. Caniels 24. Ritusio 20. De Ocampo. R. 10, Arboleda 8, Ferriols 6, Canaleta 5, Gonzales 4, De Dcampo, Y. 4, Tubid 3, Se D. Fran D.

Duarters, 32 33, 55-50, 63-77, 111

SPORTSWATCH

TUP spikers subdue Earist

HOST TECHNOLOGICAL UNIVERSITY OF THE PHILIPPINES BEAT EULOGIO Amang Rodriguez, Institute of Science and Technology (EARIST), 25-15, 27-29, 25-15, 25-19, yesterday at the start of the 18th State Colleges and Universities Athletic Association-National Capita: Region (SCUAA-NCR) Season men's volleyball tournament at TUP in San Marcelino. Manila, in another game, Polytechnic University of the Philippines beat Philippine Normal University, 25-13, 25-13, 25-11



SLUGFEST VENUE: Fistorama executive producer Gerard Cantada (left) and Rodingo B. Asilo, chair of Barangay Pinagbuhatan, Pasig City, and Honorio Cruz formalize their agreement to bring Fistorama to Piragouhatan on Jan. 18 at 7 p.m. on the occasion of the barangay's fleets.

Newcomers tangle in Fistorama

FISTORAMA FEATURES AT 4 P.M. TODAY A FOUR-ROUND BOUT BETWEEN newcomers Joel dela Cruz and Edgar Panague in the super-bantamweight division. Misamis Oriental Gov. Oscar Moreno appears in an interview with anchorman Ed Picson in the event aired on RPN-9.

NFL playoffs live on ESPN

THE 2006 NFL DIVISIONAL PLAYOFFS CONTINUE WITH A PAIR OF MFC ENcounters as the Washington Redskins take on the Seattle Seahawks today at 5:30 a.m. (replay at 8:30 p.m.) while the Carolina Panthers battle the Chicago Bears tomorrow at 5:30 a.m. (replay at 8:30 p.m.) live on ESPN

Araneta hosts LGBA 5-cock derbies

THE LUZON GAMECOCK BREEDERS ASSOCIATION (LGBA) HAS LINED UP A SEries of 5-cock derbies at the Araneta Collegum this year to search for the ultimate Cocker of the Year who will be awarded the symbolic Philippine Breeders Cup 2008. A prize of P500,000 awaits the Cocker of the Year The derbies are set on Feb. 21 and 23; March 21 and 23; April 4 and 6 and April 25 and 27. A prize of P1.2 million It at stake in each leg. LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz said that all LGBA members have committed their support. Call 926-7808 and 924-5072 (Taz Lunasco).

Touring Car title-chase resumes today



ENZO Pastor of Team TEC-Eneos leads judy Coseteng of San Miguel-Erg Alcotonic in yesterday's qualifying heat as they gear up for another showdown in Rounds 7 and 8 of the Philippine National Touring Car Championship 2005 today.

8th Chairman's Cup set at Mt. Malarayat

of the Mount Malarayat Chairman's Cup will be held on Jan. 26 with six division championships up for grabe and a brand-new car to be staked as a hose-in-one prize.

Registration is still being accepted at the club's offices with members to be charged P1,500

LIPA CITY-THE EIGHTH STAGING and guests P3,000 inclusive of one practice round and giveaways at the well-kept course that hosted the Philippine Open

The tournament is being held in honor of Malazayat chair architect Antonio Turalba and will use the full handicap scoring format.

THE HUNT FOR RACE TITLES RE- us ranng to redeem himself from sumes as the Philippine National Touring Car Championship 2005 returns to the Batangas Racing Circuit today in Rosario, Batangas.

While Jody Coseteng of SMB-Erg Alcotonic continues to dominate the race for the coveted Driver of the Year Award, an intense threeway battle for the Junior Driver of the Year is brewing among Renan Morales of Shift Racing, Peewee Mendiola of Big Chill Racing Team and Miguel Lazaro of Velocity Motors-Race Fans Team in the Group 3

Morales, who also leads the Class B division with 147 points,

an unfortunate incident in Race 6 that forced him out of the race. However, he still leads the

chase for the Class C crown with 125 points after ruling the first five races of this series sanctioned by the Automobile Association of the Philippines. Mendiola, an eye specialist at

St. Luke's Hospital, and Lazaro share second with 107 points. Dominic Tan of Velocity Mo-

tors-Race Pans Team is third with 64 points while Menchie Francisco of Petron Ultron-SRA and Bingo Valero are close behind with 62 and 58 points, respectively.

Cycling Search on

CRITERIUM RACING TAKES CENTER STAGE beginning today when the Cycling Search Invitational (CSI) lucks off its 10-leg circuit in Tarlac City, Former Asian king Victor Espiritu and 2004 Tour champion Rhyan Tanguilly head the cast in the men's elite and under-23 division, one of the four categories lined up in the event presented by Philpost and organized by Treo Sales and Management Corp. Out to foll their bid are fellow members of the Pageor Casino Pilipino Cycling team, including Lloyd Reynante, Merculio Ramos, Bernardo Luzon, Albert Primero, Orly Vilanueva, Ronald Gorantes, Sherwin Diamsay and Fernando Alagano. For details, contact Treo at 687-3154, 631-0451 or 634-5104 loc. 2973.



NCA WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP: Four-time world champion Jun Sandago with local and international cockers during yesterday's press conference of the NCA World Championship 8-cock derby at the Shangri-La Hotel Edsa. The derby is set Jan. 16, 18 and 20 at San Juan Collseum. Among the participants are US breeders Jimbo Cox, Damon Yorlenan, Joe Wolcott, Larry Whitehead, solong idea Patrick Antonio, Gov. Ito Ynares, Boy Royo, Boy de Roca, Rudy Jingco, Benjie Lim, Gov. JV Magusysay, Reno de Guzman, Ruel Ricafort, Jet Fernando, Manny Santos and Pol Estrellado.

Sunday Sports

Knicks give coach 1,000th win



CHARLOTTE Bobcats' Gerald Walface (3) takes his act above the rim.

Brown became the fourth coach in league history to win 1,000 games as the New York Knicks beat the Atlanta Hawks 105-94 Friday for their sixth straight victory.

Brown, who is 1,000-762 in 23 seasons as an NBA coach, joined Lenny Winkens, Don Nelson and Pat Riley as the only coaches to reach 1,000 victories. All four coached the Knacks at some point in their careers.

The Knicks have won six straight for the first time since a seven-game win-ning streak from Dec. 22, 2000-Jan. 7,

Jamal Crawford led New York (13-21) with 23 points. Stephon Marbury continued his strong play during the winning streak with 19 points and nine assists. Nate Robinson added 17 points,

YORK-LARRY Including 11 in the first half.

In other games, Washington defeated Indiana, 94-85; Milwaukee pipped Charlotte, 101-98; Philadelpdia outhusded Boston, 125-124, Minnesota trashed Denver, 103-86; Memphis dumped New Jersey, 81-67; New Orleans ripped Sacramento; New Orleans creamed Sacramento, 90-76; Portland downed Indiana, 113-108; and Miami whipped Seattle, 117 104.

In Charlotte, North Carolina, TJ Ford's driving layup with 15 seconds left led Milwaukee over undermanned Charlotte.

The Bucks blew an 18-point, secondquarter lead against the Bobcats, who were missing six players to mjury, including three starters. But Milwaukee closed the game on 9-2 run to improve to 13-0 in games decided by six points

Michael Redd scored 26 points, Bobby Simmons added 20 and rookie Andrew Bogut had 18 points and a career high-tying 17 rebounds for the Bucks, who overcame 23 turnovers.

Gerald Wallace had 21 points, a career-high 15 rebounds and a team record-tying eight steals for Charlotte. Raymond Felton added 19 points, eight rebounds and six assists as the Bobcaus lost for the sixth time in seven games.

In Indianapolis, Gilbert Arenas scored 18 of his 37 points in the fourth quarter to lead Washington over Indi-

Caron Butler added 24 points and eight rebounds for Washington, which

has won two straight games. Jermanie O'Neal led the Pacers with 20 points and seven rebounds. Jeff Fos-

ter added 10 points and 11 rebounds. The score was ped at 80 before baskets by Arenas and Antonio Daniels and two free throws by Arenas gave the Wizards an 86-80 lead.

In Philadelphia, Chris Webber had 31 points and 13 rebounds, and Allen Iverson scored 33 points to give Philadelphia a triple-overtime victory over

■ NBA on Solar B a.m.—Washington vs indana (replay at 9 p.m.)

Australian Open features top stars of ladies' tennis

MELBOURNE, AUSTRALIA-SEREna Williams says nobody can be underestimated in this Australian Open women's draw-especially her.

All the top 20, and 46 of the top 50 ranked female players are competing in the season's major, starting Monday. But wait, there's more.

Three-time Australian Open champion Martina Hingis, who spent more than 200 weeks ranked No. 1 before she retired in 2002, is making a comeback to the majors at Melbourne Park.

While the men's draw has been depleted by injuries, the women's draw contains all the top 10 players for only the second time at the Austrahan Open in 30 years.

Serena and Hingis are among five Australian Open titusts and eight women who've held the No. 1 ranking in this field

"This is a great first step to really getting women's tennis back," said rop-ranked Lindsay Davenport, the 2000 Australian Open winner.

"Getting everybody playing is the first step to really getting it back to a premiere sport."

Davenport didn't think everyone in the draw was 100 percent fit, but by turning up en masse the top players were advancing the cause.

Race 1—(Trl)—Mini Skirt (1), Ikaw Lamang (4), Sweet Serenade (2) Race 2—(Ort/In)—Mountain Eagle (3), Kaligatan (2). Shaolin (5), Nitty Gritty (4)

Race 3—(Qrt/Trl)—Look of Love (8), God is Good (1), Happy Again

(6), Banknet (7)

4—(Penta/Tri)—Doña Nene/Santiago (8), Kay Akino/Allysa's Choice
(7), Centerfold (1), Ajsena (2), Rich

And Famous (3)
Race 5—(Trl)—Floral Arch (5), Mojito
(3), Virginia (4)
Race 6—(Qrt/Trl)—Half Medium (5), Desert Breeze (6), Brazen Truth

(3), Empire Lady (4)
Race 7—(Penta/Fri)—Friendly Venture (7), Top of D'Line (10), Kumpurmado (5), Speed King (6), Rockwell (2)

Race 8---(Ort/Trl)---Manila's Smale (4), Money Man (6), Full of Fury (5), Eye Candy (8)

Having "everyone in the draw is really what we need," she said. "We've had a tough last couple of years. Hopefully everyone can stay healthy now for all four Slams."

The Williams sisters, Serena and Venus, took time off at the end of last season to get over the catalogue of injuries that plagued them last "If I didn't like my chances of

wirming, I wouldn't be here," said Serena, who withdrew from a tournament in Hong Kong last week with swelling in the left knee.

She played down reports that her fitness was below par and warned her potential rivals not to believe any hype about her socalled lack of fitness.

Serena said she's aiming for a third Australian title and eighth Grand Slam title overall, and hoped it would help get her ranking back to No. 1.

No. 2-ranked Kim Chisters, aiming for back-to-back majors after winning the US Open, injured her hip in Sydney last week, but MRI scans revealed only minor damage.

Justin Henin-Hardenne, the 2004 winner here, was sidelined with injuries last January and could not defend the title.



Race 9---(Penta/Tri)---The Dominator (3), Heart of Jonna (6), Strato-sphere (5), D'Joy Of The Wild (1),

sphere (5), D'Joy of The Wild (1),
Drink N Drink (4)

Race 10—(Ort/Tri)—Selectee (4),
Hurry Prince (8) Wild Orphan
(2), West N Wild (7)

Race 11—(Penta/Tri)—Shipman (3),
Lucky Joe (10), Harrod's Magle
(6), Reporter (5), Interceptor (2)

Race 12—(Ort/Tri)—Best IN Class (3),
Letshaveaparty (9), SI Isldro Ko (7),
Loving Thurrier/Smooth Strike (1)

Loving Thunder/Smooth Strike (1)
Race 13—(Super Six/Ort/Tri)—My Sheik (4), Yao Man (5), Ichiro (12), Rebound (8), Hezabellagio (11), Just Joshua (2)

Hard-working teen new golf queen

By Musong R. Castillo

NELSON DE VILLA IS A BUSINESSMAN WITH a wonderful touch.

Someone in need came to him in 1999 and sold the family a lot at Manila Southwoods, an "investment" which bore fruit in so short a time.

A share at the golf club came with that parcel of land and the family was forced to try the game of golf because they were paying monthly dues even without using the facilities.

Daughter Debbie fell in love with the game, however, and everyone who saw her knew that she was an unpolished gem waiting to glitter.

On the supposed unlucky Finday the 13th two days ago, Nelson's Little Debbie struck pay durt by winning the 44th edition of the Phillippine Ladies Open amateur championship at the Manila Golf Club.

"We are giving her all the support she needs," Liliberit, Debbie's mom, said. "It was actually not a question of support, but the push to help her become the best golfer that she can

By conquering a slew of veterans, the pintsized ninth-grader at International School-Manila followed the footsteps of good friend and former winner Jayvie Marie Agojo.

"I even wore the visor that she (Jayvie) wore when she won last year," Debbie told the liv-QUIKER yesterday. "Jayvie doesn't know, until now, that I took that visor from her bag."

Debbie woke up yesterday morning feeling nothing different.

The euphoria of wirming the Open still to sink in, the 15-year-old thought that it was just one of those days, when she had to get up for practice to chase her dreams.

"I don't know, but I just thought of golf. Of practice," Debbie said, "Nothing's changed. They (parents Nelson and Lilibeth) just told me to take the day off today."

Debbie, a member of the 2005 Ladies Federation champion team Tagaytay Highlands captained by Sandy Prieto-Romualdez, does not want to slow down with a slot in the RP Team now within reach and a full scholarship in the



DEBBIE de Villa gets a victory ride from the gallery.

JUN HAPANANICONTRIBUTOR

United States in the horizon.

Nelson, who has successfully managed the family's garments business, has taken Debbie to practically everywhere there is a fournament, believing that only exposure to high-caliber events can improve his daughter's game.

She has been under the care of Bong Lopez and has totally submitted herself to the regimen that the revered swing coach has devised

"Debbie is one of the hardest workers I know," Lopez had told the Inquirer. "You don't have to push her to work because she does that on her own. All you have to do is tell her what the (training) program is and she'll do it."

Lopez is in charge of Debbie's career and derides on what the player will do and what tournament to play in. Next month, Debbie might go to Thailand for the Thailand Amateur or to Sydney for the Australian Am.

One of the next thangs that the family will do is for Litheth, who is a dermatologist, to visit an endoctinglogist within the next few days to find out if Debbie, who stands five-feet flat, can still grow. Lilibeth also called a number of friends who

supported Debbie when she was starting, one of them sportsman Hermie Esquerra, who helped Debbie in the first of her four stints in the Junior World Golf championships in San "We need to know if we can still do some-

thing about Debbie's height," Lilibeth said. "We've tried growth hormones before, but it failed because Debbie could not follow the

It took Nelson quite a lot of convincing to ask Debbie to take yesterday off, and his daughter could not wait to get to bed last night so that she could wake up the following morning and go to the range to work some more.

Wie makes respectable Sony exit

Jim Furyk each shot 3-under 67 on Friday and were tied for the lead at the Sony Open going into a weekend that again will not include Michelle Wie. But as always, she kept it entertaining.

With a 5-foot putt on the 18th hole for her seventh birdie of the round, the 16-year-old finished with a 2-under 68

HONOLULU—CHAD CAMPBELL AND to match her record from two years ago as the lowest score by a woman competing on a male tour.

Even so, she was at 7 over and missed the cut by four shots. And at the end of two days, all she could do was wish everyone else well on the weekend.

over two days-she opened with a 79,

her worst score on the PGA Tour-the high school junior replied, "I think I was possessed out there yesterday."

One person of note did make the cut, which was at 3-over 143.

David Duval, who dealt with injuries and the birth of his first child last year, Asked the reason for an 11-shot swing coped with a back injury and fires a 68 to firsh on the number.



WIE: Another miss A

Little Debbie big on Friday the 13th

WHEN DEBBIE DE VILLA AIMED FOR her last green of the day on Jan. 13, she said she kept telling herself: "Ma-green ko lang ito and it'd be over."

This was Friday the 13th, the last round of the Philippine Ladies Open.

Little Debbie had a two-stroke lead before she prepared to fire the make-orbreak shot as her chief rival, Korean Lee Seo-jae, had reached the green in regulation. Lee was one of 33 foreigners in a field of 86-a record.

Debbie was lying three after playing out of the woods in this finishing hole, a par-5, of the nation's premier golf event for women.

Will the Priday the 13th curse claim Little Debbie, who had, at one stage, led by as many as five strokes after she had strung up three birdies from the third?

Big Jake Ayson had been a victim of the curse earlier in the rain-drenched afternoon. The pink Alus Big Jake was driving got sideswiped by a bus at Edsa.

Big Jake immediately forgave the bus driver, not wanting to muss the final-day drama-side mirror on the right dan-

gling from the thin wire as he sped away

He made it to the posh Manila Golf Club inside Makati's Forbes Park, just in time to join a sea of golf buffs all anxious, if not nervous, to see the birth of a brandnew star in the New Year.

Big Jake was in the company of, among others, Maling Montecillo, the still-strong matriarch of jungolf in the country, Aloma Lopez, Leni Cabili, Eden Hamilton, Mary Grace Estuesta, Gerry Handog and Vic Sotto, who ringed the apron of the 18th as Little Debbie prepared to unleash her stab at history.

Pulling out a 7-iron, Little Debbie, firing from the right of the soggy fairway, sailed her 70-yarder left of the green as gently as a vintage pilot would land his wide-body jet on a clear day at Naia.

Immediately, the crowd erupted in uncontrolled joy as though Little Debbie, garbed in bright yellow t-shirt and black shorts, had already clinched the nation's most-coveted ladies crown.

It took some restraining from the revered Alex Prieto, who once coached tal of 213

SPECTATOR

Al S. Mendoza

the RP Ladies Team to the 1996 World Team Championship, for the crowd to hush up as Little Debbie's biggest battle had yet to be wort.

Little Debbie, a millimeter shy at 5foot-flat, was to putt first from the championship foursome that included Frances Bondad, the champion in 2003 when she was 15, as Little Debbie was farthest some 25 feet away from the cup.

Little Debbie needed two putts to secure a playoff if Lee should find the hole with her birdie putt.

Little Debble putted to within a footand-a-half and next putted out for bogey and a 2-under-par 69 for an even-par toAgain, there was applause.

Again, Alex Prieto, in-charge of the rope to screen off eager well-wishers, spread-eagled his arms to stop the crowd from applauding. For good reason as Lee had yet to hit the putt that could send her and Little Debbie into a sudden-death playoff,

But when Lee stroked her uphill putt from 15 feet some 2 feet past the hole-it didn't even graze the cup-jubilation enveloped all of Manila Golf Club.

As if on cue, fireworks exploded and lit up the sky to greet the new star of Philippine golf. Little Debbie's victory also signaled somewhat a resurgence in Philippine ladles golf as it came after the country had finished second behind Thailand in the recent SEA Games golf competi-

"My life would be different from hereon, I guess," said Little Debbie, the 95pound bundle of joy of Nelson (a garments businessman) and Lilibeth (a dermatologist) from Alaminos, Laguna.

Bong Lopez, Little Debbie's swing coach, said he was so moved that, "I

cried, a first for me, after seeing a ward of mine win a title since seeing her finish among the Top 10 would have been good enough for me."

No doubt Little Debbie, who turned 15 on Aug. 31 last year, has performed beyand expectations. Only last August, she skied to a 90 in the second round and blew her chances for the title, after leading the first round of the Indonesian Open in Jakarta.

"I'm so proud of her," gushed the champ's mom, Lilibeth. "This victory has made us all very, very happy in the fami-

Lilibeth's two other daughters (she has 5 children) are ilkewise proving to be championship material, with her 12year-old Angela also winning the Class B crown in a side event of the Philippine Ladies Open.

Again, who's afraid of Friday the

Not Little Debbie, the latest new big star of golf.

Comments to menju@pidtdsl.net

SundaySPORTS

Juvic, Jerome gain Asian Tour berths

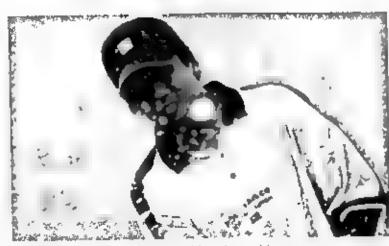
By Jong Arcano

JUVIC INGUNSAN IS NOW A FULL-FLEDGED professional and ready to hit the big money cir-

Pagunsan, undoubtedly one of the best antiteurs the country has ever produced, earned his playing license to the coming Assan Tour despite a struggling 2-over-per 74 in the final round yesterday at the Palm Resort Golf and Country Club in Johr Bahru, Mainysia.

Pagunsan, who fired a 7-under 65 on Priday that sent him skyrocketing to eighth place, wound up in a be for 14th with a 72-hote aggregate of 281 in the final stage of a two-week Qualifying School held in four courses.

Jerome Delariante likewise dinched his Asian



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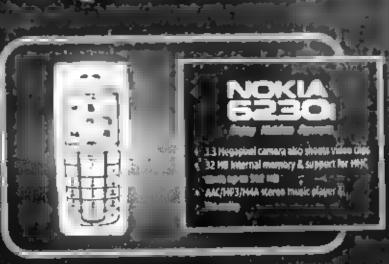
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Four card after a spectacular rally in the final round where he shot a 67 for a 284 aggregate.

That lifted him from 81st to the cut-off mark of 33rd place and ties

There were 14 other players who finished at 284 and they all joined the bitch of 46 qualifiers for this year's Asian Tour which will have an unprecessented 32 legs and \$23 million in prize mon-

Pagunsan and Descripte now join Frankie Miioza and Angelo Que who clinched automatic Saler Tour berus by finishing among the Top 60 the money as last year.

It is expected that as lour will be participating in the Pakistan Open this coming week in Karachi-Missing out in the chase were Mars Pucay who scored 73 and ended in a tie for 73rd at 288. Cookie La'O who had a 72 for 289 and Benjie Ma-

gada who carded a 74 to share 97th at 293.

Tony Lascuna, Marlon Dizon, Arterno Murakam and Cassus Casas earlier got cut in the second round.

The 27-year-old Pagunsan leaves behind a successful amateur trail that saw him post victories in the Philippine and Mastysian Amateur Opens and the 2004 Thailand Amateur Championship.

He also powered the Philippines to a doublegold medal feat in the Southeast Asian Games last month

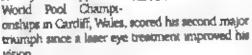
Detariante, meanwhile, gets a big boost to his professional career which he spiked with a victory in last year's The Country Club Challenge that won him a million peso payoff.

Bata keeps US diadem

great Efren "Bata"

ya hashad Amasi atan his One Pocker Divinity One
Executive West Hotel in Louisville, Kentucky.

name year he topped the ILEYES
World Pool Champi-



The Filipmo pool idol also shut out American Mike Sigel, 2-0, in the finals of the 2005 International Pool Tour (TTP) 8-ball shootout last December at the Orange County Convention Center in Orlando, Florida.

The ITP victory earned for the 51-year-old Angeles City price a hefty sum of \$200,000 that lifted here to the top of the 2005 Player Money List with

the receiving the Constitution sale, Buts won

Reyes struggled with poor eyesight early and year losing the overall ritle in the Asian 9-Ball Tour to Yang Ching Shun of Tawan and failing to advance in the knockout round of the WPC.

None is happier with Reyes return to form than his longtime beneficior and social billhards potron Aristeo "Putch" Puyas.

"This goes to show that Efren is not yet over the hill," said Puyer, "Efren can still play in the top tevel in the next three to five years,"

Morion

Sultan defends RP title today

REIGNING PHILIPPENE WELTERWEIGHT KING Dondon Sultan defends his title for the fourth time against Cesar Yarre today in the main event of a siam-bang Sinulog card put up by promoter Sammy "Don King" Gello-ant and Stein Global Sports & Entertainment Promotions at the Gaisano Countrymad our park.

In the supporting bout, ex-RP flyweight champ Federico Catubay shoots for the vacant Philippine Bosing Federation flyweight title against Louis Bantique in a 10-round fight.

Sultan weighed in at 147 pounds while Yarte came in at 144,5 lbs during the weigh-in yestercay at the ALA Gym. Catubay and Bantigue both checked in at 110 lbs for their tiff, which was originally slated for the regular RP crown before Catubay was stripped of the title for failing to defend it within the regulatory period.

Sulventageshor.

Editor Emmie G. Velarde



Only in the **Philippines** would you find film festival winners crying they've been

mayles you wall to acc an lice bla screen AND I SHIPPANINC/ASMINITONE OF FIRMS METROPOLIS 1 : Enteng Kabisote 2 3: Dont Give Up 2: Dont Give Up On Us On Us 3: King Kong 4: Marnie Everyday Family Day at StarMalls I

MARK MERRAE LIVE AL METROPOLIE ALABAND ON AN BEUNDAY 4550
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LIW KTV ROOMS IN MARK TO KTV METROPOLIE & STARMALL LAS PINAS

Poor, poor winners!

By Lito B. Zulueta

THE RUN-UP TO THE ANNUAL METRO Manila Film Festival has not been good to entics and film lovers. There seems to be an unspoken agreement among entertainment editors to gloss over the festival's usual sins of omission and commission-questionable screening of entries that appears biased toward big-ticket movies with big stars, the drift toward making the festival a menagene of fantasy movies that has made it look more and more like a circus freak show than a showcase of the best of Philippine cinema, the jacking up of neket prices, and the unmitigated politicking and seif-promotion.

Detractors would love to --- point to these practices as ANALYSIS proofs of the decadence and tredeemability of the festival. But they hold their punches because the festival-after all is said and done—is held for a good cause. At least that's the assurance coming from entertain-

Let there be no bones about it. The Metro Manila Film Festival is a protectionist dinosaur in an era of liberauzation. We may now have a new appreciation of the wages of globalization, but we should not overlook the fact that, in most cases, protectionism has merely reinforced inefficiency

ment editors and entertainment industry leaders.

and mediocnty. Perhaps the only strong reason for us to retain the festival is that some of its earnings are plowed back to the film industry to beef up the Movie Workers Welfare Fund. The fund ensures that movie workers are protected in the face of economic crises. The Mowelfund is worth keeping; it

Myriad problems

makes the festival worth fighting for.

The problems of the industry are mynad, severe taxation and severe censorship. But surely filmmakers and industry members are them seives to blame sometimes. Take a look at the furor raised by the winners of the last festival. By their irresponsible criticism and charges, they have cast in doubt the credibility of the festival, of which they themselves are the primary beneficianes. By their reckless behavior, these "poor win ners" have unwittingly trained the spotlight on the question that bugs us all. Is it still practical to maintain the fiction that the Metro Manila Film Pestival is a showcase of quality Philippine cine

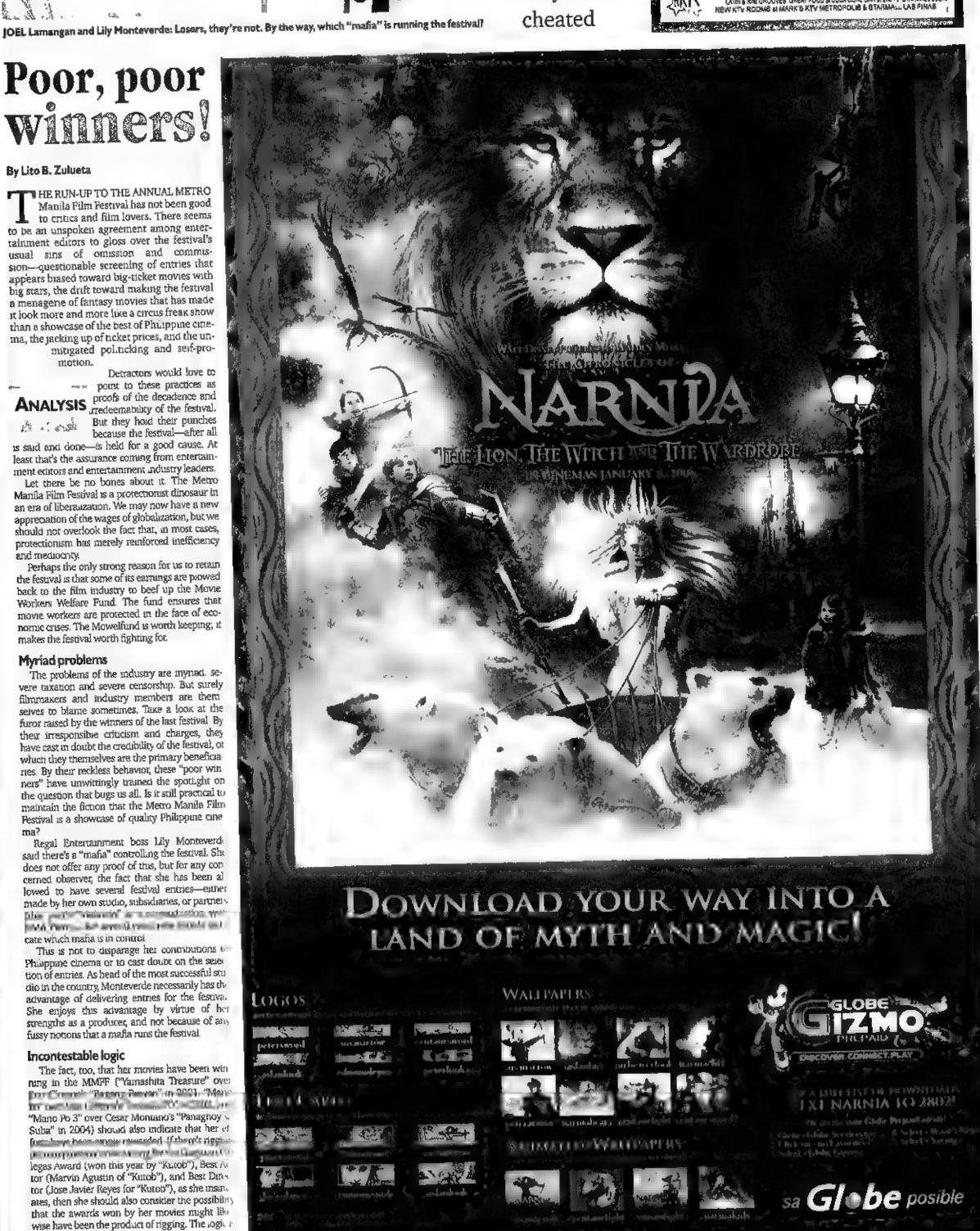
Regal Entertainment boss Lily Monteverd said there's a "mafia" controlling the festival. She does not offer any proof of this, but for any concerned observer, the fact that she has been al lowed to have several festival entries-either made by her own studio, subsidiaries, or partners Die per vien in a second war WATER IS A VENUE TO BE TO A REL cate which mafia is in control.

This is not to disparage her contributions to Phaippine cinema or to cast doubt on the selection of entries. As head of the most successful studio in the country, Monteverde necessarily has the advantage of delivering entnes for the festiva. She enjoys this advantage by virtue of her strengths as a producer, and not because of any fussy notions that a mafia runs the festival.

Incontestable logic

The fact, too, that her movies have been win ning in the MMFF ("Yamashita Treasure" over fro Council "Parent Progen" in 2001, "Many mr or 1 1 m h W W me "Mano Po 3" over Cesar Montano's "Panaghoy 🗸 Suba" in 2004) should also indicate that her cf for how have among remarded if there's ripping or margine marks. Mr. 1994 at a characters legas Award (won this year by "Kutob"), Best Ac tor (Marvin Agustin of "Kutob"), and Best Diretor (Jose Javier Reyes for "Kutob"), as she insinates, then she should also consider the possibility that the awards won by her movies might like wise have been the product of rigging. The logic r

incontestable. Joei Lamangan, director of the Best Picture winner, "Blue Moon," suggests that politics was behind his failure to win the Best Director award He explains that, because of his rabid opposition to President Macapaga. Arroyo, he might have been bypassed in favor of Reyes.





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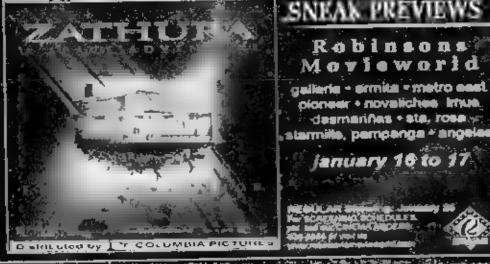
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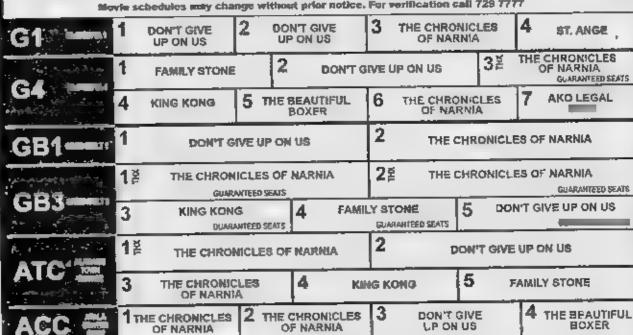
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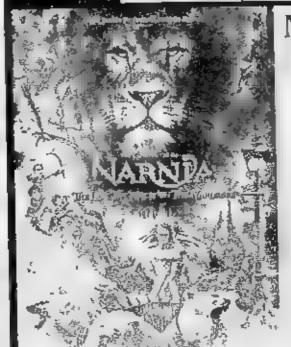
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Poor, poor winners!

That is silly agit prop at best. This most political of political directors seems to have overlooked the fact that Reyes was the director of "Live Show," which the President oxdered banned from commercial release because of its "pomographic" content as alleged by the Cathouc Church hierarchy. The controversy led to the resignation of Nicanor Tiongson as chair of the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board and severe criticism of the President by filmmakets and industry leaders, such as Lainangan.

if Lamangan is saying that Malacafiang is trying to co-opt Reyes by making him win, then Lamangan must be reminded that he has been the most successful director in the festival during the Arroyo administration; he has won the Best Director award twice in the last four years. (Again this is not to disparage Lamangan, a director who has made some of the more notable Filipino movies in the last 10 years.)

Part of the reason there's so much acrimony about winning and not winning in the festival is that many still feel the awards are a recognition of filmmaking excellence. But considering the increasingly lean field of passable film entries in the past years, and the flagrant commercialization that has obtained in the festival for some time now, the awards can no longer be taken seriously. "Blue Moon" is a good film, but that's not saying much since it is arrayed against sev-

It seems apparent now that, while the Metro Manila Film Pestival may have shielded the Philippine film industry from unfair competition by Hollywood, it has also abetted mediocrity and commercialism and made audiences a prey to banal movies, not to say the naked profiteering by businessmen and politicians, who jack up ticket prices and hold the ordinary workingman's Christmas bonus hostage to the predatory interests of the entertainment industry.

To be sure, the festival has not exactly lived up to its mission of fostering quality

the lucrative Christmas season was supposedly a way of protecting the film industry from the rush of glossy Hollywood movies that used to dominate and kill the competihan during December. It was meant to provide a breathing space for Filipino filmmakers to train their creative sights at serious filmmaking. But it seems that what the festival has developed are movies that approximate the gloss and technology of the Hollywood theme-park entertainment: "Agimat," "Exodus," "Mulawin," "Enteng Kabisote," "Captain Barbell," "Lastikman," "Panday," and "Shake, Rattle and Roll" are glossy as they come, with no apologies.

Worse, like Hollywood movies, commercial festival entries kill the competition. They dominate the box office and even get a first crack at selection: "Blue Moon" belonged to the second batch of festival entries, an undication that the screening committee had given the priority to more commercial fare. Two years ago, Jeffrey Jetunian's "Budal Shower" won Third Best Picture-and be-

batch of entries that enjoyed prolonged exposure to audiences.

Time to go?

The worst thing about the festival is that it has rejected movies that are clearly more deserving of taking their place alongside festival greats such as "inslang" and "Ganito Kami Noon, Paano Kayo Ngayon?" The most notorious example is "Magnifico," which didn't pass the rather discriminating taste of the 2002 festival screening committee, who instead gave the nod to such unforgettable cinematic fare as "Home Along the Riber" and "Hula Mo, Huli Ko." This year, the screening committee threw out "Kaleldo" by Brillante Mendoza, director of the Locatno Film Festival best digital feature winner,

Perhaps it is time to abolish the festival or reformat it? Meanwhile, the festival could be moved to another date that can best enhance its character as a showcase of serious cinema. Christmas is hardly the proper time

cinema. Having an all-Pilipino-film ticket in came a hit—even if it was not in the first to show serious (read: dramatic) movies; the houday ambience goes against the earnest, resolute nature of artistic cinema.

The dead-serious entries that try best to respond to the festival's dead-serious criteria have to compete with the houday revelry and idiocy of the more commercial entries. And the tale of the tape shows they can hardly compete because year in and year out, the box office has always been dominated by happily idiotic movies.

So why not have a festival of family movies and/or escapist fare? Why not do away with awards that recognize filmmaking excellence and originality, and instead organize a people's choice awards? In that way, we would not anymore cringe at the sight of Iya Villana crying unabashedly for winning as "Star of the Night," whatever that means. In that way, then we could find justification for giving awards for the First Best Float, Second Best Float, and Third Best

Float, whatever that means. In that way, we would, indeed, have a carnival, not a festival.

ROUNDUP

No, she's not

HEART EVANGELISTA is not pregnant; her manager, Love Capulong, is."

This was according to Rikka Dylim, manager of Star Magic, talent management arm of ABS-CBN, with which the actress has

"She's just been EVANGELISTA sick," Dylim told In-

QUIRER Entertainment in a phone interview as news about Heart's alleged pregnancy started to spread. "Heart has asthma, and she's been having attacks lately. We just chose not to address tabloid stories that carried those false

Dylim said they were also updated on the latest twist-that Jericho Rosales, Heart's costar in the TV series "Panday" and rumored boyfnend, is not the father.

The ramor was also circulated on the Internet early this week. Heart is set to address the issue on "The Buzz" this Sunday. NiniValera

PBB on DVD

ABS-CBN's breakthrough reality series is now on DVD. "Pinoy Big Brother (Mga Kuwento at Sikreto sa Bahay ni Kuya)" features the the 13 housemates' best and worst of their antics plus never-before-seen footage that might surprise even those who followed the show

The Star Records Video release comes in two volumes of two discs each, and available at P299 only. It also includes the music videos of "Pinoy Ako," (PBB housemates), "Magmahal Mun," (Sam and Say), "I've Fallen In Love," (Sam), "Pinoy Rap," (Jayson and Franzen, plus a remix by the housemates). Original copies are available at Astrovision, Astroplus, SM Record Bars, New Radio City, Video City and other major outlets nation-



ANDERSON

...or busti

FRANKFORT, tucky-Here's a bust that Pamela Anderson can't support.

The curvy "Baywatch" actress and animal rights activist is leading a charge to remove the bust of Colonel Harland Sanders-founder of

restaurant chicken chain KPC-from the Kentucky state Capitol.

"The bust of Colonel Sanders stands as a monument to cruelty and has no place in the Kentucky state Capitol," Anderson said in a statement issued by People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals, an animal rights group based in Norfolk, Virginia.

The suggestion didn't ruffle feathers in Gov. Ernie Fletcher's office

"We certainly appreciate everyone's right to an opinion," spokesperson Jod: Whitaker said. "Colonel Sanders was one of Kennucky's most distinguished citizens, a great entrepreneur and a fine charitable man of faith, and he certainly has a place in Kentucky history. We believe he warrants appropriate recognition as such.".

Yes, she is

LOS ANGELES-Oscar-winning actress Angelma Jolie is pregnant with a child fathered by her long-rumored paramour, Pitt, spokesperson announced.

Publicist Guagenti also con-Pitt has filed papers

actor his has Cindy firmed reports that JOLIE

to become the legal adoptive father of Jolie's two adopted children, son Maddox, 4, and daughter Zahara, who is about 10 months oid.

Guagenti confirmed Jolie's pregnancy but declined to give further details, including when the baby was due, or to say whether the

couple had plans to marry. Representatives for Johe were not immediately available for comment,

Maraming, maraming salamat mga Kapuso dahil nangunguna at best din tayo sa Asia!



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2004 & 2005 OVERALL CHANNEL RATINGS

	2004	2005
GMA	17	18.6
ABS-CBN	15.5	13.9
DIFF (GMA-ABS)	1.5	4.7

2005 CHANNEL RATINGS BY DAYPA Mega Manila TV Households

. [MORNING (6am-12nn)	AFTERNOON (12nn-6pm)	EVENING (6pm-12mn)
GMA	9.7	19.0	27.0
ABS-CBN	7.5	14.2	19.8
DIFF (GMA-ABS)	2.2	4,8	7.2

20 PROGRAMS ARE ON GM. ega Manila TV Households

RANK	PROGRAM	CHANNEL	RATING%
1	FULL HOUSE (primetime)	GMA	42.3
١.	DARNA	GMA	38.4
2-3	ENCANTADIA	GMA	38.4
4	MULAWIN	GMA	36.4
5	ALL ABOUT EVE	GMA	34.6
9.	COMPANY OF THE ASSESSMENT	GMA GMA	34.2
°6/7	LOVERS IN PARIS	ABS-CBN	33 2
1	EXTRA CHALLENGE	THE SHE IN GMA	32.8
8-9	SUGO	GMA	32.8
10	ETHERIA	GMA	31.8
i ii	BITOY'S FUNNIEST VIDEO	S GMA	31.7
12	KAKABAKA-BOOI	GMA	30.2
13	JEWEL IN THE PALACE	GMA	29.7
14	24 ORAS	GMA	29.3
151	STARSTRUCK -NATIONWII	DE INVASION GMA	29.1
16	PINOY POP SUPERSTAR Y	EAR 2 GMA'	28.0
17	SLAM DUNK	GMA	27.9
18	STARSTRUCK 2	. GMA	27.8
19	ATTIC CAT	, GMA	27.2
20	KAMPANERANG KUBA	ABS-CB	¥ 26 9

Asahan n'yo pong patuloy kaming maghahatid ng mga programang inyong kagigiliwan, aabangan at tunay na pagkakatiwalaan.

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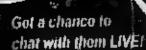
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Kate thinks Scott tied 'it' to his leg during their love scene

ONLY IN

HOLLYWOOD

Clooney score a triple whammy at this Monday's Golden Globe Awards? Will he win the Best Director, Best Supporting Actor and Best Screenplay (with Grant Heslov) awards?

in the Golden Giobes, I also worked for the first time in this awards event (I am writing this at the Beverly Hilton Hote, where the show is held every year).

Other "intriguing" ques-

Will Felicity Huffman leave her co-stars "desperate" f she wins both as Best Actress in film (drama) and TV series (musica, or comedy)?

Will both new parents Ruben V. Heath Ledger and Michelle Nepales Williams triumph as Best Ac tor (film, drama) and Best

Supporting Actress (film), respectively? Will Donald and Kiefer Sutherland make it a victorious father-son evening? Kiefer has one chance in the Best Actor, TV series (drama) category while Donald has two-in the Best Actor and Best Supporting Actor in a TV movie or miniseries categories.

Will the husband-and-wife team of Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward make it as Best Supporting Actor and Actress, respectively, in a TV movie or minisenes?

Completing what could be a family night is the presence of Don Johnson and Melanie Griffith who are separated but friendly toward each other and definately proud of their daughter, Dakota Johnson, who is this year's Miss Goiden Globe Dakora, who will assist in the ceremony, is the first daughter of a former Miss Golden Giobe (Melarue had the honor in 1975) to ever be selected

Vampire Kate

KATE Beckinsale reprises her vampire rose an "Underworld Evolution" but she wasn't playing one when we met her last December at the oh-so-vampursh hour of 5 a.m. Was she doing her vampure act on us at that ungodly hour in Hollywood? No, she was up early with Matt Damon and Steve Carell to announce the Gold-

was extremely alarming at that hour" but we beg to differ She was a welcome sight to us, unwashed journalists strug gling to wake up. When Kate stepped ment, she told me how she seemed radiant and alert in that dawn setting: "I

OS ANGELES--WILL GEORGE have a child so this is nothing. I'm used to waking up at odd hours."

Forward to a much more civilized time (after hunch) in January and Kate was even in higher spirits. Wearing a sexy top and pants, the star who rose to fame in "Pearl Harbor" and "Serendipity" In addition to voting for the first time was sweet, funny and a bit naughty as

she talked about her life as an acress (read on as she revealed the dilemma faced by her "Underworld Evolunon* leading man Scott Speedman in their love scenes), wife and mother.

This Oxford-educated beauty said that this sequel to the \$100 million worldwide hit felt like making a family movie since her exand their daughter, Lily Sheen, also appear and they were all directed by her husband, Len Wiseman. Well, not exactly a family movie since the film

continues the first one's saga of actionfilled battles, vampires, werewolves and forbidden iove.

Below are excerpts of our rambling conversation with Kate:

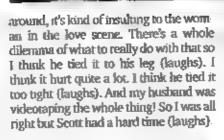
Were you nervous about having the important job of announcing thus year's Golden Globe nominees?

I was actually okay. Reading (is) my one real area of total confidence (laughs).

What was it like to be directed by your own husband? And in your

love scenes with Scott Speedman, how did you both get into the mood?

I knew I was in good and safe hands with the director. I knew he had an investment in not showing anything I didn't want to show And then Scott Speedman has become kind of nke our family pet (laughs) so it wasn't very intumidating. It was almost like when you're on an auptane and you're a little bit nervous about flying but the person next to you is having such a panic attack that you suddenly feel very calm.



boyfriend, Michael Sheen Did you get injured while making this

Not much. I just hurt myself doing stupid things, like running past something while holding a gun and I banged my elbow really bad. I punched one of my favorite stuntmen in the face by accident and I cried. We had to stop because I burst into tears (laughs).

Did you have an input in the creation of your sexy costume?

I didn't. In fact, it was the exact same costume from the first movie before 1 even knew Len. They had to get slightly different latest this time because the factory in Budapest had closed down or something, so we had a couple of problems the first couple of weeks. Every



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Kate thinks Scott tied 'it'...

time I'd move an arm or a leg, the crotch or 'Actors ample would rip or something like that, so we

Do you prefer this type of movie to, say, "Serendiputy"?

had a bit more fun on this one (laughs).

I love watching action movies. I know it seems like a sort of no-acting-required job but for me it's very much against my instincts and my comfort zone so I did this to stretch myself and give myself a different [set] of acting muscles. I am more comfortable in drames and comedies.

always take home their screen personas'

Do you find it easy or hard to leave your character on the set, considering that your husband is the director?

I tend not to stab him in the throat or anything fike that (laughs) but the thing about this movie that was fun was that I was on it before the script was even written. I was a part of talking about ideas and figuring out the story and right up to the end of the editing process. Directors usually never let you come in before it's all ready so I had much more input this time, much more insight into it so we probably did take it home a little bit more on this one than usual. Actors always think they don't take the character home but they do.

Oh, definitely. The nice thing is that we met on a movie, so our working relationship was really good from the beginning. That was probably why we ended up daring and getting married. We knew it was solid and that was nice. I didn't suddenly discover he was this person who shouted at everybody all day. I knew what he was like at work so it was good.

> his family is a bit traditional while your family is more into... Sex Pistols (laughs), yeah. Right. The families are very different. My mother was in "Hair"-my parents are actors. My stepfather is a director. Everybody's very comfortable talking about everything. Len's parents are more traditional. They weren't in "Hair" (laughs) so it's different right there. But nobody's freaky in my family-it's not free like that-and his parents aren't super uptight. Our families are just different

Len also told us that he hired Michael at your urging. The three of you get on very well, we presume.

Yes, we're very lucky. That's one thing that I've worked very hard at. So have Michael and Len. We make sure that it's a really good experience for ail of us and for Lily I spent nearly 10 years of my ife with Michael. I don't think I've got horrible taste, you know. I really do value the friendship that I have with Michael and I value the fact that he's Lily's dad. I don't see how you could spend all of your 20s with somebody and end up hating him. Certainly not in my life. Whether the relanonship was right or wrong for you doesn't mean that afterward, there can't be a relationship. We feel very modern and groovy about that.

And how did Lily get cast in the movie as well? Len and I got kind of suckered into it by the fact that because he was directing it, I was in it and Scott who's our dog was in it (laughs), our friends and people who were in our wedding were in this film, it didn't feel like a real movie. It was like Lily's in our home movie and that's coming out. I thought, well, it's only a half a day of filming for her and she heard that they were doing a flashback of my character as a young girl.

Lily heard that Len was going to meet a five-year-old and she did give him a look of like, but you have a five-year-old (laughs). So we figured, okay, and I actually thought she'd be really bored and wouldn't take Len seriously as an authority figure. She was extremely professional and requested that she be called Celine all day. She was very excited by the fact that there were donuts everywhere on the set.

She has a small part in my next film. "Click," as well. But now she absolutely doesn't want to be an acress. She wants to be a writer and so it worked out. That is good. She got her SAG (Screen Actors Guild) card in the post. She opened it and said, "I don't think I want to do this" and I said, "Oh really, why?" She said, "Well, it says I have to send them \$100 and i don't want to spend any of my money (laughs)."

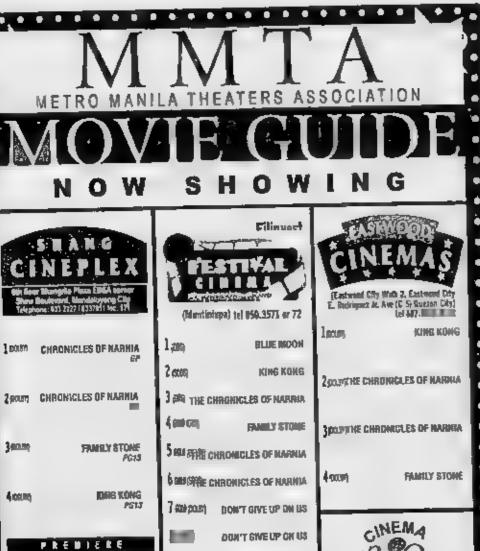
There's a huge fan base for "Underworld." Do you keep in touch with the fans?

I don't, That's maybe too close for comfort. But I've been to a few of those comic book conventions. You get to realize there's this whole section of people who like to sharpen their teeth and talk about blood and stuff all night (laughs) it's quite surprising. They arrive dressed up as my character.

Will you return to this character for a third time?

I don't know about that. Ask me in a couple of years (laughs).

KATE/A2-3



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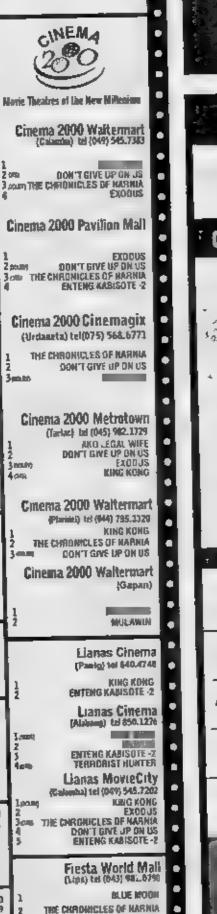
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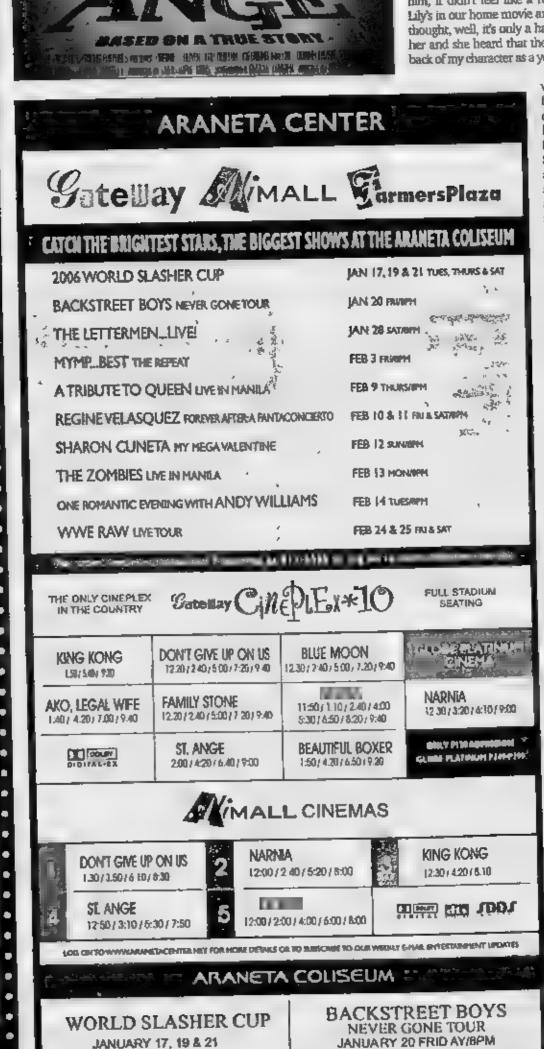
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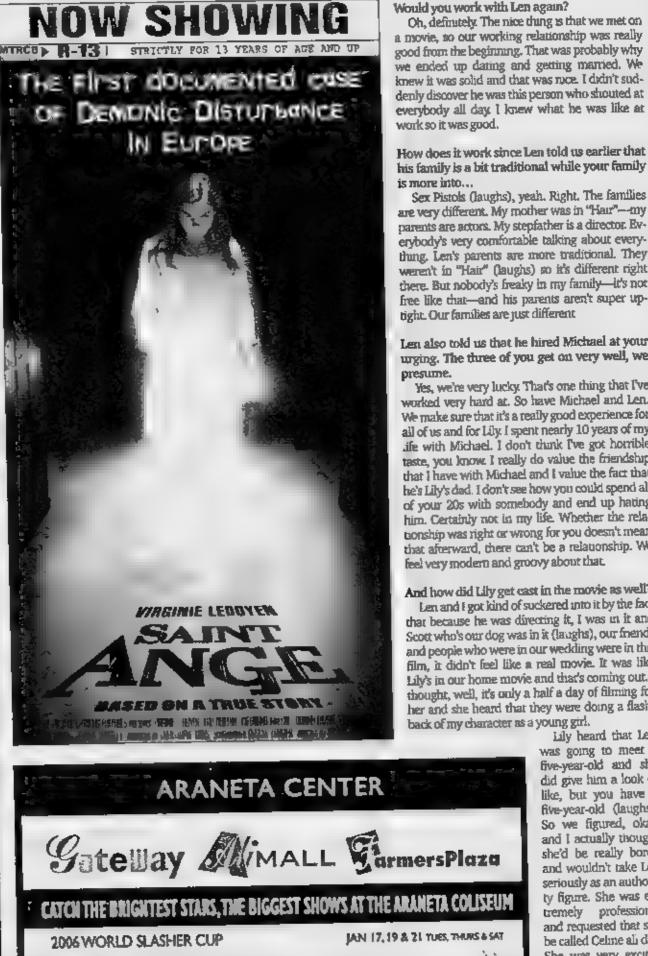
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EXCOUS.





Kate thinks Scott tied 'it' to his leg during their love scene Fram page A3-2

Do you wish to live forever like vampires? What do you find sexy about

that I would [live forever] (laughs). What is serry about vampires is that in this culture that

cieung, nor smoking, not drinking and not sleeping with your best friend's husband and all that stuff, which supposedly I have done quite recently. Yeah, that was a story but there's something visceral and passionate about somebody who's completely out of control with his appetites and you just have to feed it. I think there's something libertine and sexy about that

And how much of a libertine are you?

I am the mother of a seven-year-old. I'm usually at home with a cup of tea.

What is the best piece of advice that you ever got?

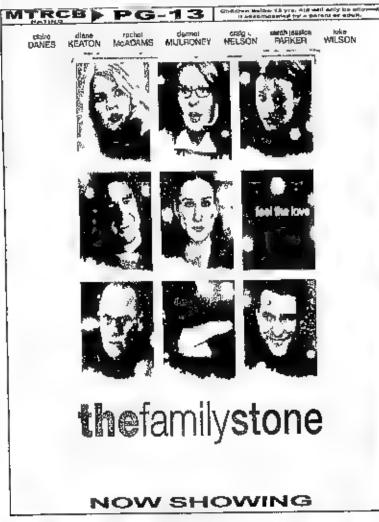
I don't remember too many people sitting me down and giving me advice [but] I do remember Emma Thompson saying, 'Just don't ever shit on anybody important (laughs)," so I haven't

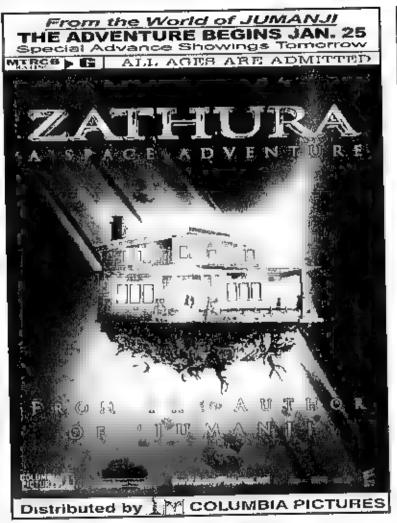
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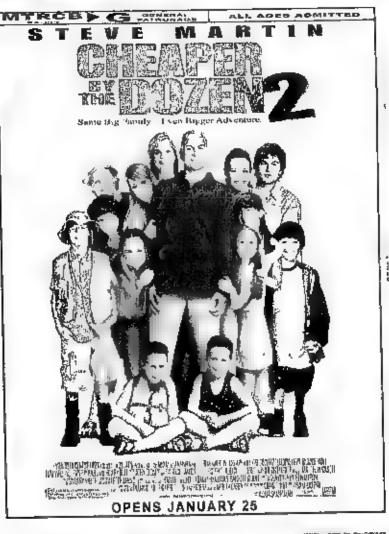
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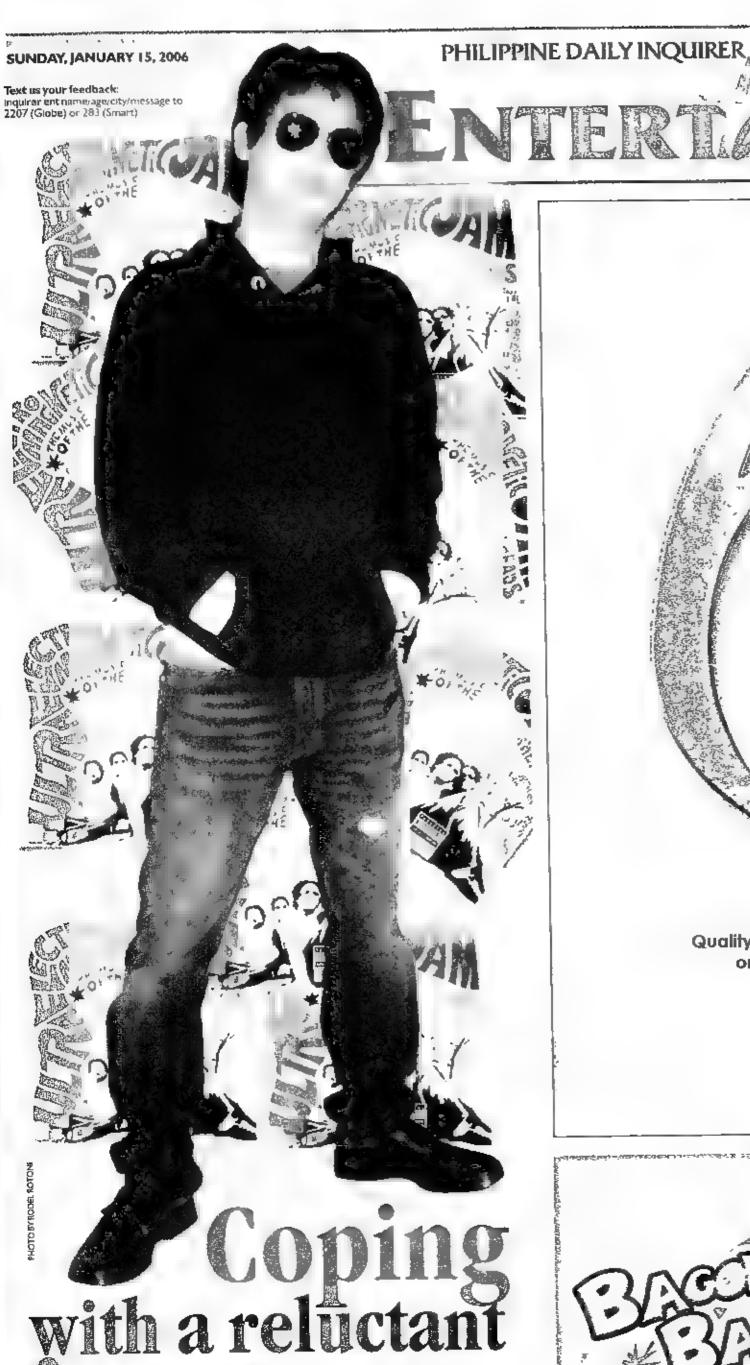
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By Pocholo Concepcion
Contributor
Q&A by INQUIRER Entertainment Staff

F THE FOUR EX MEMBERS OF Eraserheads, it seems Ely Buendia is finding it most difficult to start anew. Raimund Marasigan has been very prolific as an independent record producer and driving force of the bands Sandwich and Pedicab; Buddy Zabala has joined the Dawn; and Marcus Adoro is said to have finished two albums' worth of new music. What happened to Ely, once chief E-head?

His incarnation ast year as leader of the Mongols was short-aved

Mongols was short-aved

Now, having recorded a new CD with a
group he calls Pupil, Buendia could be feeling
antsy because simultaneous with its release is
that of "Ultraelectromagneticiam," a tribute
a burn featuring the current hottest artists
and bands doing 19 songs from the E-heads'
extensive body of work.

Given that both recordings are either released or distributed by the same record label (Sony BMG), does Buendia have reason to mope?

Fortunately, it seems the guy doesn't mind. In fact, he collaborated in and supported the tribute project.

Far cry

The songs in Popil's album, "Beautiful Machines," are a far cry, storyteiling-wise, from the style that Buendia perfected with the Eheads—apparently a deliberate move to find his identity with a new band.

Although Buendia is still credited with most of the songwriting, he lets his band mates sing their own compositions, remarkable of which are "Dulo ng Dila," by Dok Sergio (bass/vocais) and "Mary," co-written by

Ely Buendia
did not say
goodbye with
'Huling El
Bimbo' and has
more 'Ligaya'
to spare

Yan Yuzon (guitars/vocals) The fourth Pupil is Bogs Jugo.

Buendia's music here is decidedly more sophisticated. Even so, he can't seem to totally get away from the melodic turns that took his old band to the pinnacle of success. As the name Pupil implies, Buendia lets his vision open up to interesting sonic structures.

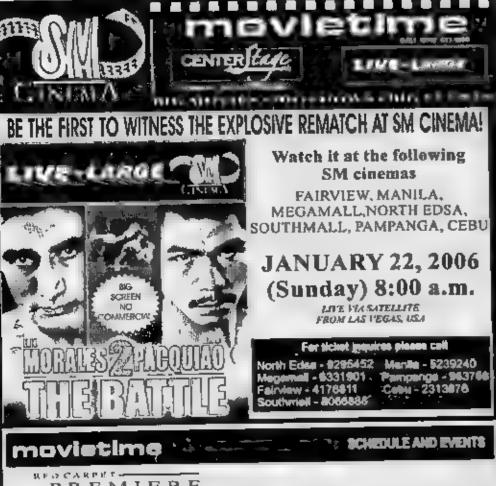
Buendia's grifriend, Pupil manager Diane Ventura, writes one song ("Nasaan Ka"), collaborates and sings in the title track. That should give clues to Buendia's present disposition, and in the cuts "Gamu-gamo," "Dianetic" and "Kalawakan," it becomes clear that his domestic life is inspiring enough for Ely, at 35, to go on being a musician on his own terms.

Not to say that he wasn't happy while making some of the finest tunes in contemporary Felipino music as an Eraserhead.

As a band that started out playing for kicks, the E-heads eventually set the tone for what Pinoy alternative music was in the 1990s—candid, imaginative, fun, irreverent and therefore relevant to youth concerns. Twelve years after, the music reverberates and goads a whole new generation of artists and bands (plus 1970s pop star Rico J. Puno

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SUNDAY, JANUARY 15, 2006 ELY, Bogs, Yan and Dok visit PDI. A ROBBINSTON Coping with

and Ely's Club Dredd days buddy FrancisM) to participate in "Ultraelectromagneticjam," the highlights of which include:

6Cyclemind reasserting the euphoric sense of freedom that "Alapaap" signifies; Paolo Santos enunciating the naughty wit between We're over the lines of "Magasin"; South Border giving "With A Smile" a touch of soul; Radioactive Sago Project articulating the dizzying spin of success in "Aicohol"; Francis M (with Buendia on backup vocals) blasting into smithereens years old' the boredom expressed in "Superproxy 2K6."

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'Collectively, a hundred

KINGKONG 11:30, 3:10, R:50, 10:30 PG-13 CHRONICLES OF NARMA 1:36, 4:31, 7:38, 18:38 CHRONICLES OF NARNIA Eastwood City Welt 2, Eastwood City 3 11:00, 2:10, 5:16, 1:10, 11:01 E. Rodriguez Jr. Ave. (C-5) Diseason City FAMILY STONE 1,65, 3,35, 8,65, 9,35, 11,60 **GUARANTEED SEATS**

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But while Barble Almalbis sounds too cartesy for "Overdrive" and the presence of Cueshe and Orange and Lemons somehow reaches saturation point, the rest-notably Kitchie Nadal who's caught giggling in "lagaya"- breathe new life into songs that are considered pop classics.

A brilliant marketing coup for record producer Eric Perpetua of PM radio station Jam 88.3. "Ultraelectromagneticjam" could be the most coveted mother album this side of cover Pupil-Ely, Bogs, Yan and Dok-recently

visited the Inquirer office and sat down for a chat with the Entertainment staff.

We read that you're not happy with "Ultraelectromagneticjam." Ely: Sinabi ko ba 'yun? It's quite good.

Do you have a favorite? Ely: "Superproxy"

By Francis Magalona... Yan: And Ely Buendia. Nag-tribute sa sartil. (Laughter.)

The scene is as bustling today as in the '90s. You started that with Braserheads. Ely: I don't want to take credit for that and I'm sure neither do the other E-heads

Among the new ones, who do you think will be the next Eraserheads? Ely: Not Pupil. Malayo.

How far are you from "Huling El Bimbo?" Ely: I don't know how to answer that. Iba ang instincts ng banda ko ngayon.

Are you a perfect fit? Yan: Yeah, we're soul mates. (Laughter)

You used to be with which group? Yan: The Mongols Bogs: Daydream Cycle, along with Dok.

Dok: Teeth. How old are you now? E.y. I'm 35.

Dok. I'm turning 30 Bogs, I'm 26 Yan: I'm 27. Collectively, we're over a hundred years old.

Do you still experiment?

Ely: Yes. Dati, gagawa lang ako ng kanta tapos ipapasok sa album. Kung sino ang gumawang song, he'll be the musical director. In this album, the songs are made by Pupil, produced by Pupil and Pat Tirano, our production engineer. This means everyone pitched in ideas. That to me is a new thing.

Where does making it big come in?

Ely: You mean making money? Everyone wants to make it big bus, right now, I'm just happy that I have come up with another al-

Ely [because he was looking distracted], are you bored?

Ely: No. Do I look bored? Everybody says that. I guess I look bored all the time.

How does it feel to have created the soundtrack of a generation?

Ely: I feel like a juxebox (laughs). Seriously, minsan okay, minsan naman ... let's just stick to the "okay" part.

Ely: Pupil is that part of the eye where right passes through. We wanted a name that's technical, short and easy to remember.

After Mongols, did you consider... Ely: Killing myself?

Who is your biggest fan?

Ely: My lud. He could sing most of Pupil's Bogs: My kid brother, Jonathan. Kahit

parati n'ya akong inaasar, I know he loves Yan: My bother (Yael Yuzon). I'm his

biggest fan, too. He's the vocalist of Sponge Have you read early reviews of "Beautiful

Machines"? Some say the album has "good music and is artistic but lacks identity." Ely: Parang masakit 'yun, a.

おおおはななないのとうでいれたかない かい ちゅうだい こべいかん だてし Kin y we ! Don't treat kids like pint-sized adults!

Jurors of

talent

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could help

THERE'S A LOT OF TALK THESE DAYS about child-friendly television, and how important it is that TV inculcates positive values in young viewers.

To underscore the importance of this thrust, the Southeast Asian Foundation for Children and Television has been giving out annual Anak TV Seal citations to shows that are good for family viewing

On the other hand-and quite ironically-some shows featuring children refuse to see the light in this regard, and project their young talents in negative ways that send out the wrong messages for children who watch them.

On "Going Bulilit," for instance, the kiddle talents are often made to portray pint-sized adults involved in courtship, flirting or hus-

The people behind the show must think that there's nothing wrong with it, because "it's just a comedy," and thus should not be taken sen-

Besides, don't some Filipino parents love to dress their kids up like little adults, and teach them to do "naughty" dances and sing songs

against such practices, because it shortens the time kids need to be kids. It also exposes them to more mature areas of feeling and behavior that they're too psychologically unformed and vumerable to adequately cope with.

The same problem, this time in the field of music, can be found festering in kiddle singing contests on TV, where the young contestants are made to choose songs with mature lyrics, dress up like pint-sized adults, wear heavy makeup and dangling earrings, etc.

Real culprits

The people behind those shows disclaim responsibility for those inappropriate excess and point to the kids' parents as the real culprits. But TV people have command responsibility over the shows they produce, so they're similarly li-

We also wish that the jurors assigned to pick the winners of those kiddle singing contests would exercise their prerogatives more respon-

If they agree that children shouldn't be made to perform in an inappropriately grown-up manner, they should lay down criteria to that ef-

In other words, if a child singer sings a song with mature lyrics and is dolled up to look like a VIEWFINDER small adult, don't make that contestant win.

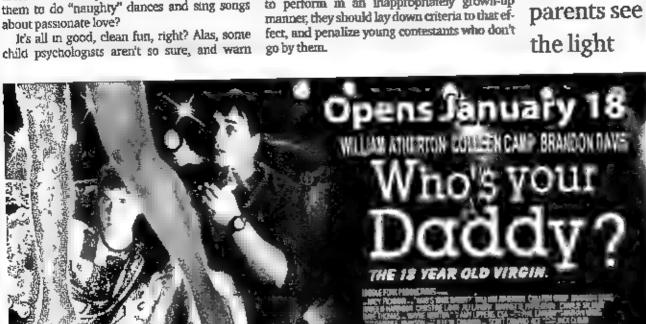
If judges stick to their guns this way, you can bet that parents of young singers will "suddenly" see the light, and choose the proper songs and performance styles for their children.

' We should all address this problem, because the children potentially at risk here aren't only the hiddie singing contestants, but all those

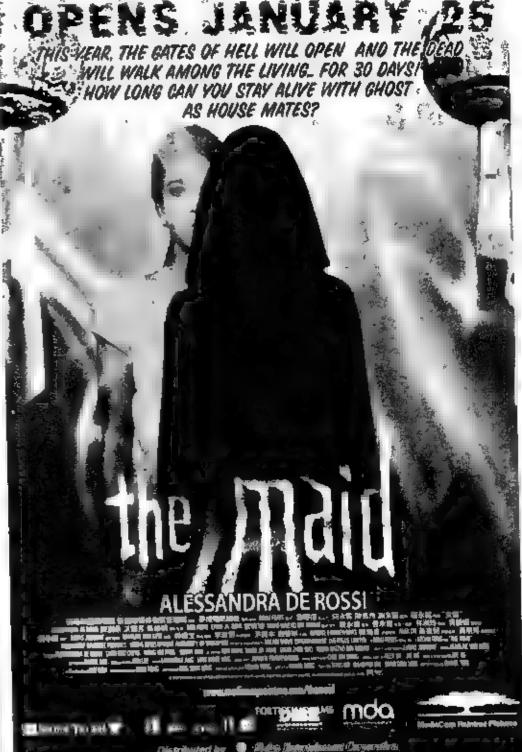
young viewers out there, who could be getting lyric and behavior inputs too mature for them to empathetically handle.

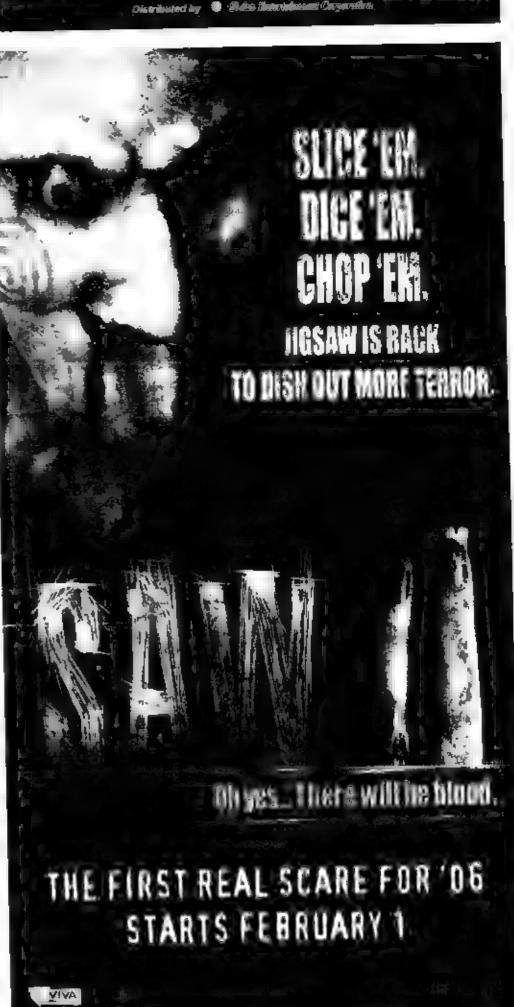
Marri Nallos

EVERY Thursday this month, Marri Nallos sings at The Lounge of Hyatt Marina Casino Hotel in Manila. Every Saturday, Marri is also the featured singer at the Calesa Bar of Hyatt Regency Hotel, where she started her lounge acts.









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ASIN THEME PARK. Investors have poured in P150 million to build five resorts in Asin, under the government's radar. The latest resort is called Palm Grove, owned by Ibaloi Greg Loy, and features theme park-like swimming pools. Loy says resorts expect their windfall to come by VINCENT CABREZA By Vincent Cabreza PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

UBA, BENGUETinvestors When poured in P150 million into a littleknown sitio (sub village) off the back roads of Baguio City and this town, no one should begrudge residents there who welcomed them to the "Republic of Asin."

That was the name coined for sitio Asin in Barangay Nangasilan here by Baguio-based reporters in the 1970s, who were furious at government's neglect of the road that led to its soothing hot

Few tourists even know of Asin, which is located farther down the more popular woodcarvers' village on Asin Road. But Baguio residents have made Asin

their weekend hideaway for 40 years now.

Asm's story is intertwined with the creation of the city in 1909 by the American colonial government, says Roger Sinot, who manages a resort that is partly owned by the city government.

Eusebius James Halsema, Baguio's first mayor, built the first mini hydroelectric plant there with the help of the late Juan Resurreccion, a Bagulo resident who fabricated the metal parts by



NEW BRIDGE, OLD WORRIES. The government started to build a new bridge to improve the road to Asin, but residents are furious because it will isolate them for four months during peak tourist VINCENT CABILIZA погред

hand.

The Bagulo government later protests. bought 4,000 square meters of Asin property where it built the "Asin Hot Springe Swimming Pools," which Sinot now adminis-

Because of the success of the city government-owned pools, Asin now boasts of five resorts, bringing P25 million each year to this small community.

But neither the city government nor the Benguet government had an idea of how well Asm's resort industry thrived until Benguet set out to isolate the on April 8. sino for four months to build a steel bridge there

Gov. Borromeo Melchor authorized the closure of an old steel bridge that connects Baguio to its Asın property on Jan. 26, giving more modern bridge.

The closure order led to

But Greg Loy, owner and man-ager of the P70-milion Palm Grove Resort which opened three months ago, says the protests led to a new organization that was formed around building a genuine Asin tourism program aimed, at marketing Asin to a wider audience.

Marissa Sulipan, chair of Nangalisan's tourism council, announced a series of activities for Asın's weekend trekkers, including Asin's first mountain bike race

Purificacion Cordilera director of the Department of Tourism, now classifies the Baguio pools, Palm Grove, Riverview Park and Swimming Pool, Bosaing's Swimming Pool engineers until April to finish a and the Sulphuric Swimming WELCOME/87

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By Germelina Lacorte PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY-BUYERS AND wholesalers from around the world are scrambling over each other to get their hands onto the best package deal that Asean tourism players are cooking up for the Asean Tourism Forum

Art Boncato, chair of the Davao Tourism Association, says that as early as October last year, the ATF website (www.atfdavao.com) had to close registration because the influx of buyers that showed interest in joining the event had exceeded targets.

Close to 700 buyers from all yover the world signed up for the ATR it kicked off last Jan. 13 and will run until the 21st.

It features as main event the Travel Exchange (Travex), a trade-only mart designed for suppliers of Asean travel products to meet selected buyers from around the world through scheduled appointments.

Many consider the Travex as an ideal forum for buyers to gather the latest information on Asean bourism products and services and to set up new business contacts and learn about tourism trends in the region, said Boncato.

He says Europeans outnumbered other foreign buyers, con-, firming a marked resurgence of interest among European countries, particularly Germany on . Asean destination like Davao.

Hotels, airlines and resorts will be up against each other's throats in offering the best tour packages to prospective buyers.

Of the 458 booths for the Travex, 133 were booked by Thailand, 100 by Malaysia, 67 by Indonesia, 64 by Singapore, and 37 by the Philippines.

"They will compete for the best rates and for the best tour packages they can get," says Boncato, who is also the sales and marketing director of the Marco Polo Hotel Davao.

Despite the lesser number of booths booked by the Philippines during the Travex event, Davao tourism players have the advanGoing for the best Asean tourist packages

The second of th



PARTICIPANTS to the Asean Tourism Forum will get a chance to go to Samul Island.

products are, says Boncato.

STREAM STREET, SAMEN OF STREET, STREET

Among the local hotels that tourism destination. registered as sellers are the Marco Polo Hotel, Waterfront Insular Hotel in Davao and the Waterfront Cebu City Hotel and Casino, the Apo View Hotel in Daveo, the Marco Polo Plaza Hotel-Cebu, the Asian Spirit, Gebu Pacific and Philippine Airlines.

But much of what is going to happen will be hidden from public view as the Travex, where the negotiations between buyers and sellers take place, will be restricted to the parties involved

Although the 3,000 foreign visiters that are coming here will momentarily boost the region's half a million tourist arrivals a year, Boncato says the Davao tourism industry is looking for-

tage because they can show the ward to the long term effects of buyers right here what their the event as the word spreads around about Davao city as a

> the Malagos Garden Resort and the Eden Nature Park in the hilly side of Calman and Toril down to the first class Waterfront Hotel in Sasa are sprucing up for the big

"We are hoping for the same miracle that had placed Cebu in the tourism map of the world," says Susan Palad, head of the ATF secretariat.

Travex, which is ATP's main feature, will take place at the NC-CC mall exhibition center, the largest of its kind in Davao city.

This southern city will present top tourism resorts in one "highland to island" tourism package, while the neighboring Island Gar-

den City of Samal will allow foreign guests to experience community-based tourism in the five tourism packages it has prepared. Major hotels and resorts, from They will experience a rare treat of riding the "habal-habal," a motorcycle which has become a common mode of transportation in remote areas of the Philippines.

The Samal tour that will take the foreign guests to Samal island's Hagulmitan waterfalls will also feature a ride on a carabao cart and a spa massage by local hilots, according to Samal city administrator Cleto Gales Jr.

Boncato says Internet facilities and wi-fi capability have already been installed in all of the 14 official participating hotels and the NCCC mall.

Tourism Secretary Ace Durano says the hosting of the ATF will serve as a "tipping point" in eras-

ing the stigma of the 2003 twin Davao bombings that had stained Davao's image as a prime destination among travelers around the

Davao will serve as the showwindow for the rest of Mindanao, which is being presented as the country's lead tourism package in the ATR according to Tourism Undersecretary Oscar Palabyab.

Palabyab said Mindanao is being developed as a banner tourism destination not only in the East Asean Growth Area (Eaga), composed of Brunel, Indonesia, Malaysia and the Philippines (BIMP), but also in the entire Asean region.

The Mindanao tourism menu covers various tourism products and destinations and all the development projects in the six re-

The ATF is an effort among the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian to promote the region as one tourist destination. It involves all tourism industry sectors in the 10 Asean countries of the Philippines, Myanmar, Laos, Cambodia, Vietnam, Malaysia, Indonesia, Brunei, Thailand and

Other events lined up for the nine-day gathering include the Asean joint tourism marketing meeting, which will tackle areas of cooperation in promoting the region's tourist attractions, facilities and investments. It also includes meetings among the Asean communications team for tourism, the Asean ministers of tourism, and the national tourism organizations and the Asean travel trade associations, among oth-



Foreign visitors perk up hotel sector

Tourism (DOT) is opumistic it of their international flights, will surpass the tourist arrivals and the rise in the number of on tourist arrivals at 2.11 milmonths of the year, registering a growth of 13.6 percent as compared to 2004 figures.

"We are undeed close to achieving our goal for 2005. Given the latest facts on tourism arrivals, there is definitely no doubt that we will go beyond our 2.6 million target, especially with the peak seasons November and December still unaccounted for said Tourism Secretary Ace Durano, in a

news statement recently. For the month of October 2005 alone, a growth of 17.7 percent to 206, 792 from 2004's 175,644 was registered Korea, United States, and Japan are the top tourist markets to look out for Korea, recorded a 42.8 percent increase, after providing 42,044 visitors in 2005 from 29,445 in 2004. American guest arrivals likewise escalated from last 2004's 36,232 to 2005's 39,781. Japan's figures also grew to 32,748 as compared to its 28,646,a 14.3 percent increase, according to statistics from the DOT.

The tourism boom is partially credited to the government's key infrastructure pro-

target of 2.6 million visitors. budget carriers plying leisure The DOT Statistics Division has and business travelers to the released its latest official data country. In addition, the local air carners are adding direct lion-just for the first ten international flights to cities outside Manila.

In 2004, there was a 35 percent increase from the number of visitors received in 2003. Approximately eight percent of the visitors were Filipinos permanently residing abroad or balikbayans. Even locals are joining in the tourist fray as the government's emphasis on holiday economics spurred economic growth in sub-industries like hotels, restaurants and recreation sectors.

ing year in 2003, average occupancy rates of hotels are expected to reach between 60 and 70 percent in Metro Manila and above 50 percent in other regions in 2004. This is a significant improvement as Merro Manila hotels posted less than 60 percent average occupancy in 2003, while some regions in the country had less than 40 percent average occupancy in

Cashing in on the tourism boom are entrepreneurs like the Torres family who decided to use their idle property in Makati to good use, "It took years to plan out the perspective of the erinn@mozeom.com.

OF jects, local carriers' expansion hotels before my parents decided to convert the 800 sq.m. lot to a business hotel," says Wilhe Torres, General Manager, Tower

In marketing Tower Inn, the family decided to niche with foreign and local business travelers. Tower Inn's location along the Pasay Road, is a prime location. Guests are not too far away from the Makati's Central Business District and its watering hoies and malls.

To satiate weary guests, the hotel's 72-seater restaurant called Nick's Cafe, offers daily authentic Filipino buffet, a "merlenda" (snacking) buffet on Saturdays. Price points were taken into consideration for guests on a budget or simit-Rebounding from a challeng- ed expense accounts. "... Outsiders and businessmen flock (in) for the affordable Pilipino buffet," adds Nicky Torres, Pood and Beverage director of the hotel

> There are 48 guest rooms with room rates ranging from P2,400 to P3,300. A business center keeps guests connected 24/7 with its facsimile, photocopying, secretarial and internet services.

Tower Inn is undergoing a two-phased facebilt. Exterior painting is done and room renovations are in the pipeline.

Tower Inn has a branch in Davao City. Its e-mail is tow-

DOT eyes vast Japanese women travelers' market

DEPARTMENT Tourism (DOT) is building on the gains of its promotional blitz in Japan, this time by zeroing in on the vast female segment of the 17.4-million Japanese outbound

For 2006, the DOT is focusing its 'Koko Doko' marketing campaign on Japan's highly-empowered female segment, which accounts for a huge chunk of Japanese outbound travelers," said Tourism Secretary Joseph Ace H. Durano, the proponent of the government's market-specific "One-Country Approach" in tourism marketing.

"This strategy dubbed "The Philippines-Wellness from the Inside Out" adds a new dimension to Koko Doko's "Premium Resort Islands Philippines" campaign, which portrays the archipelago as Japan's nearest tropical paradise," Durano explained.

"This time, however, the DOT is putting a broader but detailed meaning to that paradise through a more experiential brand imagery that caters to the priorities of Japanese women such as health, beauty, and mind. The DOT has also tapped a celebrity

OF as brand endorser, campaign women spokesperson, and ambassador of goodwill," Durano pointed out.

Thus, the Wellness from the Inside Out will even reinforce the previous branding of the Philippines as Premium Resort Islands by fashioning out a top-of-mind positioning of the country as the paradise that has it all.

"Constituting that creative concept are highly impressive messages and images of the Philippines' abundant nature, healing atmosphere, warm human bonds, delicious cuisme of healthy ingredients, esthetic salons and spas, one-stop shops and sprawling malls, and everything a Japanese woman needs to pamper her feminitury," said DOT's Team Japan Head Rosvi C. Gaetos.

"The objective is to make the Japanese women rise to the challenge of coming to the Philippines to savor all those being enloyed by their Filipino counterparts and other foreign visitors," Gaetos added.

Presented in various visuals and panoramic expressions, the concept will have different themes, each featuring unique Philippine places and goods of special interest to Japanese

The campaign will also ride on the tide of the growing popularity of coconut oil, the traditional Filipino therapeutic massage known as "hilot", the relaxing natural essences and aromatherapy, exotic native products, and local dencacies like halo-halo, which have become besisellers in Japan during the recent World Expo 2005 in Auchi

The success of DOT's marketıng campaign in Japan brought in 36,589 Japanese tourists last September to top the country's foreign arrivals in that month.

That number surpassed the 30,481 arrivals from Korea and the 30,040 from the United States, and helped push the Jantotal aary-September 1,907,405 for a 13,1 percent increase over the 1,685,853 posted in the same period last year.

DOT statistics shows that Japan is the Philippines' secondlargest export and tourist market, accounting for an average of 19 to 21 percent of the country's total arrivals over the past 10 years.

Japan is also the Philippines' second largest investor and the leading source of official develop-

Welcome to the 'Republic

Pools owned by judicial clerk Ronny Bacolod as Benguer's "wellness cluster" because of a local massage expert who services all these facilities.

Sulipan says arrangements have also been made with Baguio's pony boys, who rent out their horses to the more adventurous tourists.

Their deal offers rental packages that allow tourists to travel on horseback to Asin's hot springs, instead of using jeepneys servicing the village.

Close to 50 jeepneys ply this route, but no rides are available after 4 p.m. on weekdays and after 5 p.m. on weekends. Travel to the city takes from 20 to 45 minutes.

To some degree, the Jeepney drivers' refusal to budge from this service schedule indicates some community reservations about

what Asin will turn into once its marketing proves successful, Sulipan says.

We have not done any surveys. We really don't know how people feel. Everyone here is used to tourists flocking to the Asin Hot Springs Swimming Pools. During the last Christmas holiday, 3,000 people swam the river and the pools each day. We had twice that number years ago before [the 1990 Luzon] earthquake that destroyed Baguio,"

The trip through the craggy, muddy Asin Road meant passing through two small tunnels that were carved through the mountains. The tunnels still exist although the first now straddles a concrete road stretch of Asin

Both tunnels were part of an Bagulo trekkers.

old locomotive line of the defunct Philippine Railway Co. that connects Benguet to Tubao, La

However, Sulipan says the sitio now has to dear with "modern problems" to generate new tourist traffic to Asin.

Weekly community meetings throw one idea after another about creating new parking spaces for visiting motorists, issues about affordable food supplies and taxes, she says.

Residents own rice and vegetable farms but grocery items are still bought from Baguio, says

Loy says the newly organized resort association here has offered to share parking spaces for the meantime because the industry still deals with habitual

Loan program to buy licensed software out

IN SUPPORT OF THE GOVERNment's aggressive campaign against software piracy, broadband leader PLDT myDSL fosters the use of legal software by making licenses more affordable through the ePLDT Microsoft License Financing Pro-

Internet café owners who subscribe to PLDT myDSL Business packages will be able to avail of Microsoft original equipment manufacturer (OEM) licenses in affordable packages and access to financing options with Banco de Ore (BDO)

"The ePLDT Microsoft License Financing Program answers the need of entrepreneurs embarking on their own I-café business. It is also an opportunity for existing net cafés to maximize the numerous technical and opera-

of legitimate copies of Microsoft 2005 after a month-long warnlicenses,* said Suzy Roxas, PLDT Manager for SME Mar-

In the Philippines, piracy has become so widespread that a study by International Data Corp. (IDC) reveals 71 percent of computers in the country use pirated software, amounting to P3.7 bilbon in losses for the local software industry.

This prompted a nationwide crackdown on pirated software by the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team, un enforcement group spearheaded by the Business Software Alliance (BSA) in partnership with the Optical Media Board (OMB), National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and Philippine National Police

ing shook the local internet café industry and various businesses after the Pilipinas Anti-Piracy Team confiscated over P19 milhon worth of illegal software both from computers loaded with unlicensed software and pirated CDs. There have also been eight successful raids scattered across the country, the P10 million worth of confiscated computers from various Internet cafés in Metro Manila.

I-cafés subscribing to PLDT myDSL business packages can now purchase their Microsoft OEM licenses through cash or loan with partner bank BDO at payable at 6 months to 36 months. To qualify, applicants The massive campaign which must be self-employed with an tional benefits through the use was implemented on Sept. 16, annual gross income of

P400,000. Their Internet cafe enterprise should be in operation for at least two years. They must have at least one PLDT landline in either residence or place of work and must submit their latest financial statements for the past two years or bank statements for the last six

Upon approval of loan and most recent of which resulted in purchase of licenses, ePLDT financing participants are automatically enrolled in Get Loaded, a profit generating service that allows net café owners to purchase online game pins and autime loads easily online

ePLDT, Inc., a wholly-owned subsidiary of telecommunica-1.3 percent monthly interest, rions giant Philippine Long Telephone Distance

> For more information, call ePLDT at 855-0000.



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the referring client gets a P500 cash credit of gift certificates worth P500 at Suriya Spa, Urban Spa, Tips 'n' Toes or Bruno's

The second draw takes place on Aug. 1, 2006 where depositors may win trips for four to Orlando, Florida; Gold Cost, Australta, Beijing/Shanghal, China, or to Lagen Island Resort El Nido, Palawan

All trips are also inclusive of roundtrip air and land transfers, hotel accommodations and daily breakfast

For more inquiries on the "East West Getaways," log on to www.eastwestbanker com or call East West Bank's Customer Service Hotline at 887-17 or tollfree 1-800-10-8-ACCESS (1-800-10-8222377) for provincial areas.

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Victory Liner turns

LINER VICTORY inc. (VLI) recently cerebrated decades of bringing passengers safely and comfortably to destinations VLI's board memexecutives, bers. employees, suppliers and guests gathered to toast the company in an elegant dinner party recently held at the NBC Tent in Fort Bonifacio.

Well-wishers were welcomed by Victory Liner Inc. Chair Gerarda Hernandez-Villa. In her speech, she noted that beyond managing VLI as a bus firm, the first generation Hernandezes cultivated a sense of family within the company, and served as parents to the employees for more than half a century. Valued partners were honored with loyalty awards after VII President and General Manager Johnny Hernandez

gave a talk Victory Liner was the first bus company to install televisions on board, and is the only bus firm to accept credit card payments To mark its 60th year in a grand way, VLI commissioned the building of the "Centenmal Airport" in Baguio City, a passenger center patterned after the Grand Central Terminal and the Port Authority in New York. Another innovation is the deluxe bus with comfort room facilities for those who prefer to travel to Baguio non-stop.

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March 4, 2006 March 18, 2006*

April 8, 2006 April 22, 2006* *Nationwide Exam

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(Sgd.) EDITA S. BUENO Administrator

Republic of the Philippines Province of Daveo del Norte CITY OF TAGUM

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

Reference/Solicitation No. .

The Local Government of Tagum City thru its Bids and Awards Committee (BAC) invites interested suppliers to apply for eligibility and to bid for the supply and delivery of

1. ONE (1) UNIT BRAND NEW MIDI BUS, 37 SEATERS 2X3 INDIVIDUAL BACKREST WITH LEATHERATE UPHOLSTERY, FULLY AIRCONDITIONED 4X2-6WHEELERS WITH COMPLETE TOOLS/TIRE WRENCH AND HYDRAULIC JACK (20 TONS CAPACITY) AND ONE (1) SPARE TIRE.

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Calendar of Activities:

Particular	Date(Time	Versus
1 Issuance of 6ki Documents	January 30, 2006	BAC Secreterial
2 Pre-Bid Conference	*.barssary 31, 20082:00 P.M.	ABC Conterence Hell
S. Oropping of Bids	February 13, 2006 8:00-12:00 Noo	A BAC Secretaries
	February 13, 2006 -200-5:00 P.M.	ABC Conference Hall
5. Bid Evaluation	February 14, 2006	ABC Conference Hall ABC Conference Hall
6. Post Qualification	February 15, 2006	ABC Conteresce Had
7 Notice of Avrard	*February 16, 2006	VOC COMPOSENCE I INT

Bid documents will be available only to prospective bidders upon payment of non-refundable amount fixed by the Bids and Awards Committee. All bids shall be accompanied with a bid security equivalent to 1% for CASH BOND based on the TOTAL AMOUNT of the APPROVED BUDGET of the items.

For more information, please call the BAC Secretariat office at telephone numbers, 084-218-8639, 084-218-2349 or visit the BAC Secretariat Office at 2nd floor of SP Building, Bonifacio St., Tagum City

The Bids and Awards Committee a.) reserves the right to reject any or all bids; b.) waive any defect or formality; c.) declare falture of bidding if there is prima facie evidence of any prohibited act which restricts, suppresses or ruillifies any or all bidding procedures to the disadvantage of the government; d.) assumes no obligation whatsoever to indemnify the bidding? the bidder(s) for any expense that they may incur in the preparation of their bids, and e.) to accept only such bid(s) established to be the most advantageous to the government.

(Sgd.) ATTY, ROLAND G. TUMANDA Acting City Legal Officer BAC-Chairman

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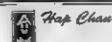
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SULTATION IN ACTIVE FOR SIGNATURA

The Subic Say Metropolitan Authority - Procurement and Property Management Department is now accepting application for registration of prospective suppliers / contractors and the renewal of registration for existing suppliers/contractors for the supply of various goods and services to the SBMA for the year 2006.

Please submit the following documents as applicable to the above

- Letter of Request for Registration addressed to Heed, PPMD Fully Accomplished Suppliers Registration Form
 - Information Sheet
- a.) Managen/Proprietor
- b.) Authorized Company Representative Registration Regulariments
- a.) Minimum Requirements
 - Notarized Company Profile SEC/DTI Registration, whichever is appropriate
 - Article of Incorporation/Partnership, if applicable Valid Municipal/City Business/Mayor's Licenses and
 - VAT Registration certificates and receipts of payments
 - remitted for the last two (2) years Audited/Comparative Financial Statement for the Last
 - Two (2) Years Latest Income Tax Return (ITR)
 - Tex Clearance
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For more information, please contact Florante G. Espiritu at phone number (047) 252-4283.

(Sgd.) RANI C. CHUZ Manager

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PAMPANGA II ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC.

January 9, 2006

INVITATION TO BID

PAMPANGA 11 ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (PELCO II) WITH OFFICE ADDRESS IN SAN ROOUE, GUAGUA, PAMPANGA IS PRESENTLY IN NEED OF FORTY (40) STRONG SECURITY GUARDS FROM A LICENSED

You are therefore invited to submit your bids/proposals to the PBAC and perticipate in a sealed bidding on January 26, 2006 (Thursday), 11:00 A.M. at PELCO II Soard Room, San Roque, Guague, Pampanga wherein your bid will be opened in your presence or that of your representatives. Late submission and/or incomplete bid documents shall not be accepted.

REQUEST FURTHER TO INCLUDE IN YOUR SEALED BIDS/PROPOSALS ASIDE FROM THE BID AMOUNT. THE TERMS OF PAYMENT, LICENSE CERTIFICATE, NUMBER OF SECURITY FORCE & COMPANY'S PROFILE. THESE REQUIREMENTS ARE VERY VITAL IN OUR PBAC EVALUATION PURPOSES. THE BID BOND IS EITHER IN THE FORM OF CASH OF MANAGER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TWO AND ONE HALF PERCENT (2.5%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE OR SURETY BOND (W/O.R.) EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL BID PRICE, ALL BIDDERS ARE REQUESTED TO BE AT PELCO II BOARD ROOM AT EXACTLY 11:00 A.M. FOR FURTHER CLARIFICATION PLEASE CONTACT OR VISIT PBAC CHAIRPERSON MS. ANA LEAN, NARCISO, TEL. NO. (045) 900-0811-OR MR NEIL S. ISIP (045) 901-0864 TO 65.

EATE SUBMISSION OF BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED. THE PBACHAS THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE REQUIREMENTS, WAIVE ANY INFORMALITY IN THE PROPOSAL RECEIVED AND TO ACCEPT SUCH MOST ADVANTAGEOUS TO THE COOPERATIVE

PLEASE BE INFORMED FOR THE ACCREDITATION OF YOUR COMPANY AT PELCO II OFFICE. ACCREDITATION FEE IS ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1.000.00). ASIDE FROM THE ACCREDITATION FEE, THE PBAC WILL BE CHARGING ALL BIDDERS ONE THOUSAND PESOS (P1.000.00) FOR THE BID DOCUMENTS

(Sgd.) ANA LEA N. NARCISO PBAC Charperson

ANY MADE THE WORLD IN MADRIE PROSESSES AND ASSESSED.

NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY Quezon City

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid For the Supply and Delivery of IT Equipment and Software

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY through its 2005 Corporate Operating Budget Mends to apply the sum of P2,786,000.00 being the Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC) to payments under the contract for the supply and delivery of IT Equipment and Software, as follows:

Lat	Particulars	Approved Budget for the Contract (ABC)	SOURCE OF FUNDS
1	BACK-UP SYSTEM (Server Tape Drive, and Back-up/Resions	1,400,000.00	909
2	14 UNITS Personal Computers	490 000 00	GOP
3	Lotus Netes Domino R7	384,000.00	Foreign Grant, British Government
4	DB2VD8 V\$.2	512,000.00	Foreign Grant, British Government

Bids received in excess of the ABC shall be automatically rejected at Bid opening.

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the supply and delivery of IT Equipment and Software. Delivery is required within 30 days from recept of notarged contract. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of the Bidding Documents, Instruction to Bidders (TO).

Bidding will be conducted through open competitive bidding procedures using non-decretonary passital criteria as specified in the implementing fluids and Regulations Pari A (RR-A) of Repulsiin Act 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reloam Act," and is restricted to Filippin citizens/sole proprietorships, organizations with at least skdy percent (60%) interest or outstanding capital stock belonging to ottizens of the Philippines, and to citizens or organizations of a country the laws or regulations of which grant similar rights or privileges to Filipino citizens, pursuant to Republic Act 5183 (R.A. 5183) and subject to Commonwealth Act 138 (C.A. 138). Only Bids from Bidden who pass the sligibility check will be opened. The process in the eligibility check is described in Section I of the firstono Documents. TB. described in Section II of the Biolong Documents, ITB.

Interested Bidders may obtain surther information from the NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY BEDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE SECRETARIAT and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M.

A complete set of Bidding Documents may be purchased by interested Bidders from the address below and upon seyment of a nonrelundable fee in the amount of P2,000.00. The address of payment will be CASA. The Bidding Documents shall be received personally by the reproductive Bidding by the proposition Bidding by the proposition Bidding by the proposition Bidding Bid the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all Interested parties on January 31, 2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the NFA Boardroom, 10° floor, Malanyas Bidg., E. Rockguez St. Avenue, Quezon City.

Birds and eligibility requirements must be delivered at the NFA Boardroom, 10th Floor, Matimyas Birdg., C. Rodrigunz Sr. Avenue, Quezon City on February 14, 2006 from 9:00 a.m. to 9:45 a.m. Late Birds shall not be accepted. All Birds must be accompanied by a Bird security in either of the lollowing form and amount.

į	Form of Security	Required Amount in Percent of ABC
	Cash, Cashier's Check, Manager's Check,	One Percent (1%)
	Bank draft or irrevocable Latter of Credit	
ı	Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)
	Surety Bond stamped "Callable on	Two and a half percent
	Demand' on the lace of the Bond issued	(2.5%)
	by GSIS	
	Any combination of the above	Proportionate to share
	the second of the second of 2005 to	e 10-66 a et al Re MEA Boardroom. 100

Bid opening shall be on *February 14, 2006 at 10:00 a.m.* at the NFA Boardson, *10th tiper, Matmyes Bidg. E. Rocinguez Sc. Avenue, Quezon City Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives*

The NATIONAL FOOD AUTHORITY reserves the right to accept or reject any Bid, to annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without theraby encurring any tability to the affected Bidder or Bidders.

Procuring Entity Contact Persons Telephone No. e-mail address Fax No.

(PDI-January 15 6 22 2006)

- NATIONAL POOD AUTHORITY
- Jose D. Chue : Violeta S. Villarame 10: E. Rodinguez Sr. Avanua, Quezon City (632) 712-0454 Issvillarama & alla gowph
- (632) 712-0454 www.nla.gov.ph

(Sgd.) PEDRO S, KERNANDO, JR. Deputy Administrator and BAC Chelr for Administration and General Support Services

WORK FOR A HUMANITARIAN AGENCY

The Philippine National Red Cross (PNRC) is announcing vacancies for different positions. The qualifications are anumerated hereunder, interested applicants are requested to submit their application tetter, CV, Diplome and Transcript of Records either through mail or fex (fax # 5276219) on or before 20 January 2006 to The Manager, HRD Office, PNRC, Port Area, Manile. Qualified applicants shall be contacted.

ADVOCACY OFFICER

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- Excellent presentation, teaching, computer skills
- (Windows package): Good PR and networking skills; and Pluent in spoken and written English & Tagalog
- PROJECT ASSISTANT Graduate of a 4-year Social Science Course
- Background in writing legal research papers.
- legislative work & humanitarium law is a plus. Good computer skills (Windows Package); and Fluent in spoken & written English & Tagalog.
- INFORMATION WRITER A bachelor's degree holder in Mass Communications
- and/or Journalism; Preferably with a minimum of 1 year working expenence Excellent to communication skills & computer Merate (MS Office, PageMaker or Photoshop): & Experienced in feature, news writing and topics of

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Single. Male/Female, not more than 27 years old. A graduate of Mechanica Engineering or any engineering ocurses Willing to work and relocate in Subic Bay. Must have license. Can work in a pressure-driven environment Willing to work long hours overtime, even Sunday and holiday Smart. Outspoken, Aggressive and aims high in life

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From (4) Limits Recommittee of the Imper Surples Committee Type BACKHOE (Phydratic Experiment) 4 Crylindian Original as the other of the Imper Surples Committee Type BACKHOE The bid of the Imperiod Surples of the Committee of the BAC Experiments. Provinced General Surplements on the Imperiod Committee of the Imperio

peer and (CCS) 275-2433
The Pre-Bis Conference is scheduled in Japany 24, 2005 at 10 to a me at the PCSO white the scheduled company of lasts is scheduled on February 7, 5005 at 10 to 3 am and the scheduled white.

The Committee on America reserves the light in region any or all bids, which any sequence formality and award the contrast to the Sidder whose lad proposal as evaluated by the Committee is the exist advantageous to the government.

(Sed.) ATTY ISMAEL P MARTINEZ Charman Seb and Land MARTINEZ harman Sids and Awards Committee Provinces General Services Officer

(PDI-Jacuary 15 & 22, 2006)

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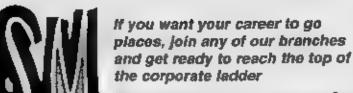
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 male/female; not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in retail operations, food chain or in sales in the same capacity

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The ideal candidate will be responsible for the planning, controlling and directing counter and checking operations and functions such as cashlering, credit card and cash transactions in the assigned branch department

- female, not over 35 years old; graduate of any 4-year business course; with 1 to 2 years experience in coshlering operations, familiar with credit card and cash transactions; responsible for over-all supervision of personnal in the department

:Warehouse Manager/Supervisor

The ideal candidate will be responsible for an assigned branch warehouse in terms of proper planning and controlling of operations functions and directing of a group.

- male; not over 35 years old, graduate of any 4-year business course; with extensive experience in all aspects of warehousing operations in a retail business, able to lead and motivate staff, and foster a team working environment.

omer Relations Service Manager/Supervisor

The successful candidate will be responsible for the planning, promulgation and implementation of the over-all security program of the Company.

male/female; not over 35 years old, graduate of Criminology or any 4-year business course; male must be at least 5'5 1/2" & female must be at least 5'2" in height; with 1 year related work experience in handling security matters and personnel; with basic knowledge in crisis management and human behavior; with keen investigation skills, detail oriented and physically fft; must be flexible to different work assignments, willing to be assigned in provincial branches and work on extended hours.

(Human Resources • Accounting • Treasury • Customer Service)

 female; not over 25 years old; graduate of Psychology, Behavloral Science, Communication Arts, Business Management, Accountancy, Computer Science or any 4-year business course; personable, fast learner and willing to work on extended hours.

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Republic of the Philippines Department of Health CENTRAL OFFICE

Bidg #5. San Lazaro Compound Rizal Avenue, Sin., Cruz Merils, Philippines BIOS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE YOUNG (822) 743-83-01 Log 1455/1627

Invitation to Apply for Eligibility and to Bid Republic of the Philippines Health Sector Development Project Procurement of Information Technology,

Equipment & Peripherals, Office Equipment and Furniture & Fixtures The Government of the Philippines (GOP) has received a Loan from the Asian. Development Bank toward the cost of Health Sector Development Project (HSDP), and it intends to apply part of the proceeds of this form to payments under the contract for the Procurement of Information Technology Equipment & Periphersis, Office

Equipment and Furniture & Phitures under Loan Agreement No. 2137 The DOH now invites Bids from eligible Bidders for the Procurement of Information. Technology Equipment and Peripherals. Delivery of the GOODS is required by thirty (30) calendar days. The description of an eligible Bidder is contained in Section II of

the Stoding Documents, ITB. Bidding will be conducted in accordance with relevant procedures for open compelitive bidding as specified in the implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of Republic Art. 9184 (R.A. 9184), otherwise known as the "Government Procurement Reform Act," to the extent consistent with Asian Development Bank's procurement procedures as defined in "Guidelines for Procurement Under Asian Development Bank Loans", and is open to all Bidders from eligible source countries.

Interested Bidders may obtain further information from the Procurement Division (PD) and inspect the Bidding Documents at the address given below from \$:00 a.m. to 5:00

A complete set of Sidding Documents may be purchased by Interested Bridges: from the address below and upon payment of a nonrefundable fee in the amount of One Thousand Philippina Pesos (PhP1,000.00). The method of payment will be on a cash basis only. The Bidding Occuments shall be received personally by the prospective Bidder or his authorized representative.

The DOH will hold a Pre-Bid Conference open to all interested parties on January 31.

2006 at 10:00 a.m. at the address given below.
Bids and eligibility requirements must be detivered to the address below on or before 10:00 a.m., February 14, 2006. All Bids must be accompenied by a Bid Security in the

Form of Bid Security	Minimum Amount in % of the Approved Budget for the Contract for the LoV Package for which Bids submitted
Cash, certified check, casher's check, manager's check, bank draft, irrevocable letter of credit or Bank Guarantee	One and a half percent (1.5%)

following form and amount in Philippine Pesos, Late Birts shall not be accepted Bid opening shall be on February 14, 2006, 10:00 a.m., at the address given below. Bids will be opened in the presence of the Bidder's representatives who chance to atland at the address below.

9 The DOH reserves the right to accept or reject any Bld, is annul the bidding process, and to reject all Bids at any time prior to contract award, without thereby incurring any liability to the effected Bidder or Bidders.

Central Office Bids and Awards Committee Ground Floor, Building 6 Decartment of Health San Lazaro Compound, Sta. Cruz Manda Trunklina Number 7438301 loc. 1625 & 1626 Telefax No.; 7419775

(Sgd.) ALEXANDER A. PADILLA Undersecretary of Health and COBAC Chairperson

(POS-denuary 15 & 22 2006)



Republic of the Philippines Decembers of Education (Date of SECONDARY EDUCATION DEVELOPMENT AND **MAPROVEMENT PROJECT (SEDIP)**

Detied Nullnial Project Hunegement Office (RPMO) 5th Floor, Bordacio Building, DepEd Complex, Maratop Ave., Parily City Telephone Nos 605-96-22-631-0573, Telefor No 605-9626

Loan No. 1654-PHI

INVITATION TO BID

The Republic of the Philippines, through the Department of Education, is a recipient of an Official Development Assistance (ODA) later from the Asian Development Bentt (ADB) towards the linencing of the Secondary Education Development and Improvement Project (SEDEP). It is intended that part of the proceeds of the loan will be utilized for eligible expenditures in the proposed Repair and Improvement of the SEDIP Office covering the conference from at the 3th ligar and the SEDIP staff and consultant's offices at the 4th and 5th Floors located at Bonifacio Building, DepEd Complex, Maraico Avenue, Paskg City.

ADB requires that bidders and contractors as well as the DepEd, under contracts funded with ODA loans, observe the highest standard of ethics during the procurement and execution of such contract, in pursuance of this, ADB (I) will reject a proposal for award II III determines that the bidder recommended for award has engaged in corrupt or traudulers practices in competing for the contract in question; and (II) will recognize a contractor as ineligible, for a stated period of time, to be awarded a contract funded with ADB-ODA loans and, if it, at any time, determines that the contractor has engaged in corrupt of fraudulent practices in competing for or in executing another contract linenced by ADB-ODA loans.

Bidding is open to all Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) registered contractors or joint venture contractors with valid license, general building category and eligible to enter into a contract based on award.

Scope of works includes: (i) demolition of existing and affected areas, (ii) restoration. works, (iii) provision of cabinets, shelves, furniture, etc. (iv) painting works, (v) electrical works, (vi) mechanical works and (vii) provision of audio-visual equipment.

Bidders may obtain further information and acquire the bidding documents from:

The Bids and Awards Committee Office Room 508, Matini Busking, DepEd Complex Meralco Avenue, Pasio City

A complete set of bidding documents may be purchased by interested and aligible bidders starting January 16, 2006 until January 30, 2006 from 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM upon submission of a Letter of intent to the above office and payment of a non-refundable amount of P2,000.00 to the DepEd Casher

A pre-bickling conference shell be conducted on January 30, 2006, 10:00 Alif to be held at the Buhregan ng Kerumangan, Rizat I Building, DepEd Complex, Meralco Avenue,

Submission of bids together with all the documents required in the bid documents must be delivered to the aforesaid venue not later than 10:00 AM of February 14, 2006. All bids will be opened immediately thereafter in the presence of all the hidders or their legally authorized representatives.

> RAZBINOHORAM RUDAM YTTA (DgZ) Vice Chairman, Bids and Awards Committee

(PDI-Jun. 15 & 22, 2000)



Republic of the Philippinas National Infiguiton Administration Regional Office Mo. 4 Pig., 2-guna OFFICE OF THE BAC CHAIRMAN rin Communities Development Project (ARCDP II)

INVITATION TO BID

The Government of the Philippines has received a foun from Internalional Bank for Reconstruction and Development covereds the cost of the Second Agranan Reform Communities Development Project (ARCDPI) and imposts to apply part of the funds to cover eligible payments under the following contract located at Basangay Pactoto, Sumopathy of Magsaysay, Province of Occidental Mindoro. The bidding is open to all funders from eligible source strending defined in the Guidplaces. Procurentary under tBRD

The National Irrigation Administration (NIA) through the NIA Regional Irrigation Office No. 4, emplementing partner of Department of Agrando Reform for ARCOPII Invites sealed bits from physics bodders for the Rehabilitation and Expansion of Pacietic Commissed Irrigation System under Contract No. RIRR 05 174 03 PAP-OSK

DESCRIPTION OF WORKS:

Protect Dunation: 240 Calendar Days
Bloiding Documents PDF 5,000,00
Minimum Bld Security Php 205,000 00
Bld Closing Outer February 15, 2006 © 2:00 PM

Ham No. SCOPE OF WORK	UPAT	QUANTITY
L DIVERSION WORKS		175
1700 Class A' Concrete (D.W.)	GH TIL.	132 5
1700 Class A Conc (Pio & Fig.)	<u>a.m.</u>	17.6
1700 Class "A" Conc (Barrat)	CILM.	13 25
1900 Conc Blocks (Rubble Meanny)	Cú m	20 42
1900 Rubble Masonny 2900 Finar Oraln	CLI.ITI.	42 B1
2900 Finar Drain	₩	20.59
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I, CANAL STRUCTURES		
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1700 Class A' Contrete (Barrel)	CU m.	48 24
2400 24' Dis RCP	pcs	52 00
2600 Concrete Demofition	çir.m,	044
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DI. CANALIZATION		
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400 Common Excavation (Manual)	cu.m.	1 909 59
200 Common Backfall (Manual)	CL-171	1,590.9
IV. PROJECT FACILITIES		
1 iA Warehouse/Officer	L6	1.00
	LE.	1.00

Highware Equipments Required

Dump Truck, 4-6 curs capacity (2 units) - swited Backhoe Exceletor, Crawler Type (1 unit) - owned:
Vibrationy Plate Compactor (2 units) - 1 cened; I Bagger Controle Moor (4 units) - persor, 4-0 Deviationing Pumps (2 units) -- owned, europy instruments and materials. resting apparatus - leased/owned

A complete set of Ending documents may be purchased by the interested biddors at the SAC Secretarial Office. Att. A Regional Office No. 4. Prig. Laguras distring January 16, 2005 from 8:00 A.f.t. to 5:00 PM upon payment of a non-returbation like of PPP 5,000 06 for each set. A pro-ext conference will be talk at NAA-Docidexial Medicin PIMO. Sax Jose City on Pietruary 1, 2006 at 9:00 A.f.M. Bids shall be valid for a postof of 90 catendar days after 84 opening and must be accompanied by a 84 Security of PPP 205,000.00 in the form of Cash Certified Check, Manageris Cache, Bank Diparantee, on a free convenible currency, and shall be delivered to the BMC Securetarial Office NNA Regional Engager, on or before the BMC storage date on February 15, 2006 at 2:00 PM, at velocities the BMC Pet and be opened to the presence of bidders who wish to added. The MR Regional Engagen Cffice 4. ARCDPH BMC Pits, Lagura reservos tha right to reject any or all bids, waster any defect or formatity, assume no obligation whitelesser to compensate indemnity to the contraction factor for any empanish. That they may induce in the preparation of bid and to accept the lowest envaluable of the Cash. Bank Date and to accept the lowest envaluable of the Cash. Bank Date and to accept the lowest envaluable of the Cash. Bank Date and to accept the lowest envaluable of the Cash. Bank Date and to accept the lowest envaluable of the Cash. Bank Date and to accept the lowest envaluable of the Cash. Bank Date and the lowest envaluable of the Cash. Bank Date and the lowest envaluable of the Cash. Bank Date and the lowest envaluable of the Cash. Bank Date and the lowest envaluable of the Cash. Bank Date and the lowest envaluable of the Cash. Bank Date and the lowest envaluable of the Cash. Bank Date Ba

(Sgd.) DANIEL S. BARCIAL Charman, NA RIO-4 BAC ARCOPIL

(POi-January 15, 2006)

Paco

Philippine Amusement & Gaming Corporation A Globel Corporation with a Global Mindset and a Filipino Hourt.

ENVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO SED TRB NO., 12-134-2005

The Philippine Amusement and Gaming Corporation (PAGCOR) is inviting all interested bidders in its forthcoming public bidding for the project stated hereunder.

Renewal of Connectivity Project

Peenty Million Pesos (P 20,800,800.00) Approved Budget **Duration of Contract** Two (2) year contract Internally Funded Source of Fund

Only suppliers duly registered with PAGCOR may be allowed to participate in the hidding Unregistered suppliers must register at the Suppliers Registration & Evaluation Section (SRES), Procurement & Property Department (PPO), 2nd Floor PAGCOR House, 1330 Roxas Blvd., Ermia Manita, Tel. No. 526-0573.

The detailed project particulars and instructions to bidders are discussed in the 8ld Documents available for esuance from January 5, 2006 to January 27, 2006 at the BAC Secretanal Unit, PPD-Corporate upon payment of a non-refundable fee of Ten Thousand Pasos (Php 10,000.00). In order to secure the documents, bidders should present the Official Recept issued by our Cashier to the BAC Secretary handling the

The schedule of activities is fisted, as follows:

Activitles	Schedule		
Pre-Bid Conference	January 17, 2006	(2pm)	
Submission of Bids	January 30, 2006	(10 am)	
Opening of Bids	January 30, 2006	(10 am onwards)	

PAGCOR has the right to disquality any prospective bidder if found that they have submitted falsified documents and/or information, and the right to accept or reject any or all bids, to annul the bidding process, to waive any defects or formalities found therein and to accept such bid or a part thereof as may be deemed most advantageous to PASCOR, without thereby incurring any liability to the affected bodder or bidders

PAGCOR reserves the right to reject any and all bids, declare a failure of bidding, or not award the contract if there is prima facile evidence of collusion between approvate public officers or employees of the agency, or between the BAC and any of the bidders, or if the collusion is between or among the bidders themselves, or between a bidder and a third party, including any act which restricts, suppresses or nultibes or lends to restrict, suppress or nullify competition, or if the SAC is found to have failed to lollow the presented bidding procedures, or for any justifiable and reasonable ground where the award of the contract will not redound to the benefit of the government (R.A. 9184, Sec. 41).

Please address sill communications to the BAC Secretariet Unit, Procurement & Property

(Sgd) RAFAEL A. FRANCISCO Charperson, BAC 4

(PDI January 8 & 15, 2006)

SCHEDULE-

(90) January 13, 14 & 15 2000)



NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID FOR THE SALE OF

CONTAMINATED BUNKER-C AND WASTE OIL "AS IS, WHERE IS" BASIS

DATE OF BIODING . January 16, 2006, 2:00 PM, Solarium Hall, Sidg.-1 Grd. Floor NPC-HO. Agham Road corner Quezon Ave., Dilimas, Quezos City The National Power Corporation will conduct public bidding of the contaminated Surface-C and located Power Barge 106, Keppel Shipyard, Bausn, Batangas.

Item Description and Location Contemenated Bunker-C and waste oil

Minimum Bid Price

approximately 460,000 liters located at PB-106. Koppol Shipyard Bauen, Batangas

Interested parties who wish to secure bid form for the above flams thust be accredited/registered waste of processors or troaters and must present valid DENR Permit to Operate

ALL BIOS MUST BE SUBMITTED WITH THE FOLLOWING:

PROPOSAL BOND DEPOSIT IN THE FORM OF CASH OR MANAGER'S / CASHIER'S CHECK EQUIVALENT TO TEN PERCENT (10%) OF THE TOTAL SID PRICE OFFER. LATEST INCOME TAX RETURN (2004) ORIGINAL OR XEROX COPY OF THE BIDDER

VALID TAX CLEARANCE CERTIFICATE OF THE BIDDER VALID PERMIT TO OPERATE AND TSD REGISTRATION

interested perfet who wish to paracipate in the public birding may access the bid form of P550 00/set train Mr. SAMUEL V. LOMUNTAD, Acting Menager, Warehousing, Inventory, Traffic and Asset Disposal Division (WiTADD) at Bldg. 1, Ground Floor. NPC Head Office, Corner Aghera Road and Quezon Avenus, Dilman, D.C. or cell telephone no. 922-5431 Deadline for assurance of bid form is 4.30 PM January 17, 2008.

For the Materials Management Department (Sqd.) ATTY CATHERINE & PABLO

Officer-in-Charge
Meterials Management Department

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

For the application of License in POEA

S.N.G MANPOWER AGENCY

GRACE S. BAMBA

President

Position Recruitment Clerk SHEGEKI NAKAYAMA **NORIETA BAMBA** Cashier Liaison Officer **CHARLES CONRAD BAMBA JONI JANE BAMBA** Accountant LEOPOLDO BAMBA, JR. Messenger Messenger LEOPOLD RAMBA



Unit 114 Sevilla Building Vista de Lago Condominium Tuktukan, Taguig City Telefax: (632) 542-0946 : +63 915 56 56 723

(PDI-January 15, 2005)

PNOC

(PDI-Jun 16 & 22, 2006)

PROC-ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION Energy Complex, Marriti Road Fort Bondacio, Taguag, Metro Menta

Tel. No. 883-1320, Local 9275 INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND REBID

The PNOC-Energy Development Corporation is inventig all interested suppliers to apply and satisfied authorized bids for the supply and delivery of the following:

18" & 24" CS Pipes under FGJ 50923 Approved Budget – PEIP 6,115,000.00

Eligibility forms and bidding documents shall be evaluate for assumes at the above address. tro Harold T. FontStan starting January 15, 2005, from 9:30 AM to 3:30 PM and upon payment of a eoch-refundable line of P400-00 per document.

For purposes of clarifying cartain metient, a pre-bloding conference shall be hold on Jenuary 26, 2006, 2:00 p.m. at the above address

Applications for eligibility and usuled bids shall be submitted to and registered with the PNOC-EDC Purchasing and Trailic Division at the above address, and thereafter, dropped in the pactocked but box thireful not take than 2:00 p.m., (Procurement Department office) Wall Clock Time) of February 8, 2006. Public opening of bids shall follow animidality or Eate hide shell not be eccepted.

Prospective bidders shalt signify conformence to the bidding terms and conditions, its required, and shall ensure the serve through proper submission/execution. Source of lucting is from internal Cash Generalize of PNOC-EDC. All bids should be within the Approved Sudget for the Contract in order to qualify

PwQC-Energy Development Corporation reserves the right to armut the bidding process to reject any or all bids, to warve any informality in the bids received and to accept such bid which is most advantageous to PNOC-EDC without thereby incurring liability to the affected der or bioders or any obligation to inform the effected bioder or hitiders of the ground(s) for PNOC-EDG's action.

Chairman, Bids and Awards Coromittee I

imagine yourself earning P50,000 to P100,000 Start right away with P7,000 by

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of "SAN MIGUEL PRODUCTS" Pureloods, Magnete, Monterey, Ginetira, San Mig Colleg. Jery Add. COCA-COLA PRODUCTS Cols. Sondo, Royal, HI C. Satsi, Eight O'Clock, "CARTOON NETWORK" Orsney Shoopy Barbie TITA'S TOCINO MEGA SARDINES SAUCI-MI, EXTREME MAGIC SING KOBE Shoes GIBSON'S LA CRUISER, YOKEX, King, Inn, KISSA, Feating Accessores, Apparel and a whole follower

TO SEE IS TO BELIEVE!!!

These wise responded to this AD are now hoppy curving more than P400,000/ms.

The OPLY COMPANY that is REGILLY APPRECIATED by both NATIONAL & LOCAL Government Officials Tell your triench about this great opportunity

ATTENO FREE "ENTREPRENEURSHIP" Orientation Jan. 18, 18, 24, 26 & 30, 2005-2 PM SHARP JOLLIBEE, SM Megamel 5th Fir

-2 PM SHARP Jan. 20 & 27, 2006 Jan. 15, 17, 21 23, 25,

Johnse, Sta. Lucia East Malt G/F, Octagon Bldg., - 10 AM, 2PM & 6 PM San Miguel Ave. 27 & 31, 2006 Orligas Conter, Pasig City (back of SM Magamali)

Phone bring the AP to write in compression that he tringent must consider a time that

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

This is to inform the public that the following persons are no longer connected with C.F. SHARP CREW MANAGEMENT, INC.

09-Dec-05 Effective Noel L. Seguban 15-Dec-05 Effective Djoanna T. Figuerres 31-Dec-05 Effective Luia V. Dorado

All transactions entered into by the persons stated above for and in behalf of the company from the said dates shall no longer be honored.

(For POEA purposes only)

(PGI-Jurnary 15, 2006)



INVITATION TO PRE-QUALIFY AND TO BID The CAGAYAN & ELECTRIC COOPERATIVE, INC. (CAGELCOIT) is invining an interested biddens

to pre-qualify and to bid for the following

I. con-performing assets (electrical materiels and vehicles) for disposal Electrical Materials for Distribution Line Construction

To be comitted, butter must have fully complete with the halowing.

Accreditation Requirements (for submission to the Appreciation Committee Chairman, Clarence E. Jacznio)

Company Profile Business Registration

Latest Income Tex Return (FTR) ust of Charte for a period of Three (3) years if applicable

RIRAYAT Cartécale Mest be able to pay P2.000 00 (for this particular bidking only and not refundable) for bid

documents during the pre-bid conterence CASELOO if reserving the eight to reject unyfor all laid without any reason, waive any formality therein, accepts proposal crost advantageous to the cooperative and assumes no obligation to companies or indumely say batter for expenses or bases that may be accurred in the preparation of bid not does it guestation that an award will be made

Pre-table conference and tricking schedules what be informed to all qualified blickless through less and males. Descrição for automission of requirements. January 23, 2005.

CAGATANE SLEETING COOPERATURE, MC. Macanage Domos Agon. Carpton for his 1674, 686 24731 Updan No. (078) 118-25-4 E-mail capacitation. (POI-Jumpary 8 and 15 2005)

(Sgd) GABRIEL A. YORDESILLAS General Menager



PHILEX MINING CORPORATION No. 27 Brixton Street and Fairlane Street

Pasig City, Metro Manila

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID CONTRACT: SUPPLY, MAINTENANCE AND CONSULTANCY SERVICES PMC'S CABLE BELT CONVEYING SYTEM

Philax Mining Corporation Invites suppliers/contractors to apply for eligibility and to bid for the above-cited contract. Only contractors with a minimum of five (5) years experience in supplying parts and/or operating a cable belt conveyor system will be welcomed. Also, interested parties must submit their intent to participate and their latest company profile by January 19, 2006 and attend the pre-qualification orientation scheduled on January 23, 2006, 1:00 pm at Padcal, Tuba, Benguet

All letters and/or inquiries submit to: Atty, Jennifer Jane Gogoling, Bidding Chairman (fax no.: 09195470629 / Cellphone no. 09189193266 / email: [fg@philexmining.com.ph)

> (Sgd.) JOSE ERNESTO C. VILLALUNA President and Chief Operating Officer

(PER - Jenuary 15, 2008)

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for reservations / cancellations / corrections Mondays to Saturdays Sundays 12:00 noon 12.00 moon Day before publication every Thursday

OBITUARIES

TOMAS L. TORRES

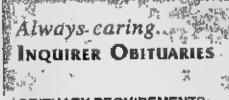
ng Payapa, Melvar, Batangas

ay mapayapang namatay noong ika 13 ng Enero 2006 sa gulang na 96.

Ang kanyang nagluluksong mga Anak na si RUBEN at MANDY, DANTE at LORRIE, BABY, ROMY at VIOLY, label no mga APO at inga-KAPATID as Si NARDING at DINOY, sy nokskiusap na inyong ipagdasal para sa kapayapaan ng kanyang kaluluwa

Ang kanyang tabi ay nakabaro) sa NATIONAL SHRINE OF THE SACRED HEART OF JESUS na melatagpuen sa Deang Dott, Barangay San Antonio, Lungsod ng Makati

Ang libing ay saka na ipapanlam.



OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS:

Ocopy of Death Certificate; Any identification document (I.D.)



You are gone... But for us you never left... God has you in His keeping We have you in our hearts.

Our Dearly Beloved

ROSITA LIM ANG

now rests in the infinite warmth and embrace of our Lord. She joined our Creator on the 11th of January 2006, at the age of 86.

Her loving husband NEMESIO; children ALFRED & JEANNE KHU, JANET & JOHNNY CHUA, STEVEN & SANDRA SIM, grandchildren ANDREW, PATRICK, MATTHEW, SAMANTHA, JARED and IEREMY and all her relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Arlington Memorial Chapels, Araneta Ave., Quezon City.

Interment will be on Thursday, January 19, 2006 at The Heritage Park, Taguig, Metro Manila after the 8:00 AM Mass at Arlington Memorial Chapels.

Our Dearly Beloved

DRA. AIDA CALCETA BOISER

Peacefully joined our Lord on January 13, 2006.

Her bereaved daughter Rowena; son-in-law John, grandchildren Charmaine & Christine; brothers and sister Jose (†), Erdulfo (†), Nilda (†), Narciso, Ricardo (†), Virgilio & Erlinda, nephews & nieces and other relatives request the pious reader to pray for the eternal repose of her soul

Her remains he in state at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Church, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

Interment will be at the Loyola Memorial Park, Marikina after the Funeral Mass on Tuesday, January 17, 2006 at 8:00 A.M. at Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Shrine Church, Broadway, New Manila, Quezon City.

"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life." John 3:16



wish to express their gratitude and appreciation for those who mourned, prayed for, commemorated, honored, called, sent messages, flowers, tokens and presents, and visited their beloved

"CORINHA"

Ma. Del Socorro M. Sarmiento (August 16, 1954 to December 5, 2005)

throughout her fight with cancer and on her passing on to the after-life



Our special thanks to those who doneted to the CMS Fund Memorial Foundation for Cancer Patients. Those who wish to donete may deposit to. Corinna Mutuc-Sermiento Memorial Fund Metropolitan Bank & Trust Company (MBTC) Account No. 3-14913264-4



ONIO GONZALES DUMLAO

who died on January 4, 2006

Convey their heartfelt gratitude to all those who in one way or another commiserated with them in their hour of grief. Special thanks to friends and relatives who not only offered prayers, flowers and other forms of consolation, but also shared their precious time with the family in their moment of spiritual need.

GOD BLESS!

CLASSIFIEDS

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Breaking Through the Tyranny of the Average

NATIONAL SALES RALLY

Surpass Your Sales Targets for 2006

January 27 2006) (kg am S 30 p.m. Holiday inn Galleria



"It is a wretched taste to be gratified with mediocrity when the excellent lies before us "

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- * How to make the cilent Trust You Instantly: 5 Invaluable Tips
- * 6 Powerful Tools Becoming More Persuasive * Reading Body Language: 10 Breakthrough Ideas
- 5 Common Blunders in Sales Negotiation
- * 6 Power Sources in Sales Negotiation
- * 7 Sales Negotlation Techniques
- *7 Killer Tackles in Handking Price Objections
- * B Proven-Effective Ways of Closing More Sales * How to create a sense of orgency : 3 Essential Methods
- * BONUS TOPICS:
- > Latest Trends in Marketing / Marketing Convergence
- > Neuro-Lingulatics Programming and Selling: 3 Mental Maps
- > Review of the Basic Presentation Techniques













NCCA Ani ng Sining 2006 opens at Luneta Park

THE NATIONAL COMMISSION role that the arts play in uplifting the Singing Ambassadors who recently for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) through the Tunugan Foundation, Inc. and in cooperation with the National Parks Development Committee, will launch the National Arts Month with the theme Ani ng Sining 2006, a celebration of the country's bountiful harvest in the arts at the Rizal Park on Feb. 4-5, 2006 from 6 pm to

midnight. The arts month kicks off with a twoday celebration of quality performances of award winning groups and best productions representing the different art forms. It will also feature the "fresh" yields achievements and new directions in Philippine arts.

To call attention to the country's wealth in the arts and the significant

nation, Ani ng Sining 2006 opening will make all its performances free to

the public.

Among the featured performances are those of the internationally recognized Benny Sokkong and the Cordillera Ethnic Music Ensemble, Celso Espejo Rondalla, Pangkat Kawayan (The Singing Bamboos of the Philippines), Earthsavers Kalahi Dream Academy (UNESCO Artists for Peace 2003 Awardee), Ramon Magsaysay Choir (NAMCYA 2005 first prize winner in the High School Category), St. Louie University Glee Glub (NAMCYA 2005 First prize winner in the College Category) the acclaimed Philippine Madrigai Singers, Makiling Ensemble (promoters of traditionbased music creations) and the UP

won the gold in the 2005 Habanera Competitions of Spain.

Other highlights include: award winning composer and devoted nationalist Noel Cabangon, Serenata ng mga Banda featuring Banda Malays, the Navy Band and Banda 88; film installations, dance performances by the UE Dance Troupe, Philippine Bailet Theater, Quezon City Ballet and the Bayanihan Dance Company; a balagtasan, choral renditions of Felipe de Leon's "Ako"y Pilipino", Lucrecia Kasilag's "Kung Maari Sana" and Chino Toledo's "Sambayan", a fireworks display and so much more

For Inquiries on the opening ceremonies of Ani ng Sining 2006, please cal. 926-0028.

Global contracts for Pinoy seafarers surpass 300,000 mark

seas Filipino seafarers has surpassed the 300,000 mark showing a robust preference and demand for their skills in global shipping, the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) today said

Labor and Employment Secretary Patricia A. Sto. Tomas said that some 302,328 contracts for the overseas Filipino seafarers were processed globally in 2005, or 10,812 higher than the total 291,516 contracts processed in 2004

She sold that the 302,328 contracts processed comprised some one-third, or 30.80 percent, of the

THE TOTAL GLOBAL EMPLOY- 981,337 overseas employment conment contracts processed for over- tracts processed for both land- and sea-based overseas Filipino workers (OFWs) in 2005.

She also said that the global prefer-

ence of the world's shipping industry on Pilipino seafarers who comprise some 25 percent of the world's seafarers supply is anchored solidly on the Philippines' continuous efforts to ensure compliance with the International Maritime Organization's (IMO) Standards of Training, Certification, and Watchkeeping Convention (STCWC).

Meanwhile, Sto. Tomas said that President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has ordered the setting up of a DOLEled program to strengthen the country's capacity to supply officers to rank, Sto. Tomas said.

the global maritime industry in coordination with the Commission on Higher Education and the Professional Regulations Commission

The global seafaring industry will need some 35,000 officers in the next five to 10 years, and the program to strengthen the country's capacity to m eet demand will enable the graduates of mechanical or electrical engineering to shift and become marine officers, she said.

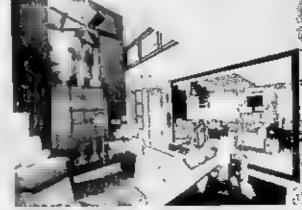
In general, the thrust will emphasize the right academic preparation and also encourage seafarers not to remain as they are but opt for upgrading to officer

Cozy Suburban Living at Verdana Homes Mamplasan

world, the need to create a harmonious and balanced life has become more important than ever Families runs to the nearby grocery. have increasingly begun to prefer cozy neighborhood settings over the impersonal atmosphere of large villages. Young couples welcome the idea of forging lifelong friendships with like-

n today's fast-paced and modern minded peers, while parents would appreciate having trusted neighbors keep an eye on their kids during play dates, study sessions, or emergency

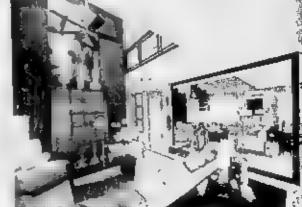
Nestled in the secluded suburban environment of Biñan, Laguna is Verdana Homes Mamplasan, a place where everybody knows each other's name and everything important is secure and within walking distance.



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APPLE CEO Steve Jobs

SUNDAY.

JANUARY 15, 2006

Bio

A first for Mac, Intel and Filipinos

By Beia Formoso Contributor

SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA-THE HIGHly anticipated annual Apple Macworld Conference & Expo at the Moscone Convention Center in the company's home state officially kicked off Jan. 10 with CEO Steve Jobs launching the first Mac desktop computer and laptop to be suited with Intel processors.

It was a day of firsts indeed for both Apple Computer and Intel Corporations and the Philippines, as the 2006 Macworld Conference & Expo marks the first time a Filipino delegation was present in the very hall where the famous Steve Jobs delivered his keynote address.

The 9:30 a.m. keynote address had journaluses across all media and from the world over lining up as early as 6 a.m. just to get a coveted seat close to the stage and the charismanc Jobs, whose legendary last words, "And one more thing ..." always introduced a new Apple gadget that normally has consumers jumping on their toes in excitement.

Guessing game

The audience was second guessing what that groundbreaking product would be during the middle of the speech, when suddenly, the stage opened up to reveal Intel Corp. CEO Paul Otellini in a white, dean room suit (although it looked more like a spacesuit, a constant in întei advertisements) grasping a shiny Intel microchip wafer.

"Steve, I wanted to report that intel's ready," he said, amid the hollers and cheers as he handed the chip to Jobs.

This led to the introduction of the iMac desktop personal computer and, for that "one more thing ...," the MacBook Pro notebook. Both are fitted with the Intel Duo Core processor, a breakthrough chip that promises higher performance while optimizing energy efficiency.

However, only the iMar is readily available. Eager fans will have to wait until February for the MacBook Pro-

The announcement of Mac shifting to Intel processors was made in Spring 2005, and that promise was that by June of 2006, Apple would be shipping Macs with Intel processors. The launch of the new computers means that

Apple and freel are six months ahead of schedule.

IPod accessories

For iPods, the only new accessory is the iPod Radio Remote, an FM turner and remote control-in-one for the iPod (including iPod nanos).

This despite the boasts made by Jobs at the start of the speech that 14 million iPods were sold just over the last Christmas holiday season, bringing the total number of iPod users to 42 million.

The iTunes Music Store has sold 850 milion songs to date and, even though the Video iPod came out just recently, 8 million videos have already been sold. But Jobs insisted that this was a 'Mac'

world conference, and cited that the decision on the name MacBook Pro was "because we're kind of done with 'Power' and because we want 'Mac' in the name of our products."

On the software front, Apple presented ilife '06 and iWork '06.

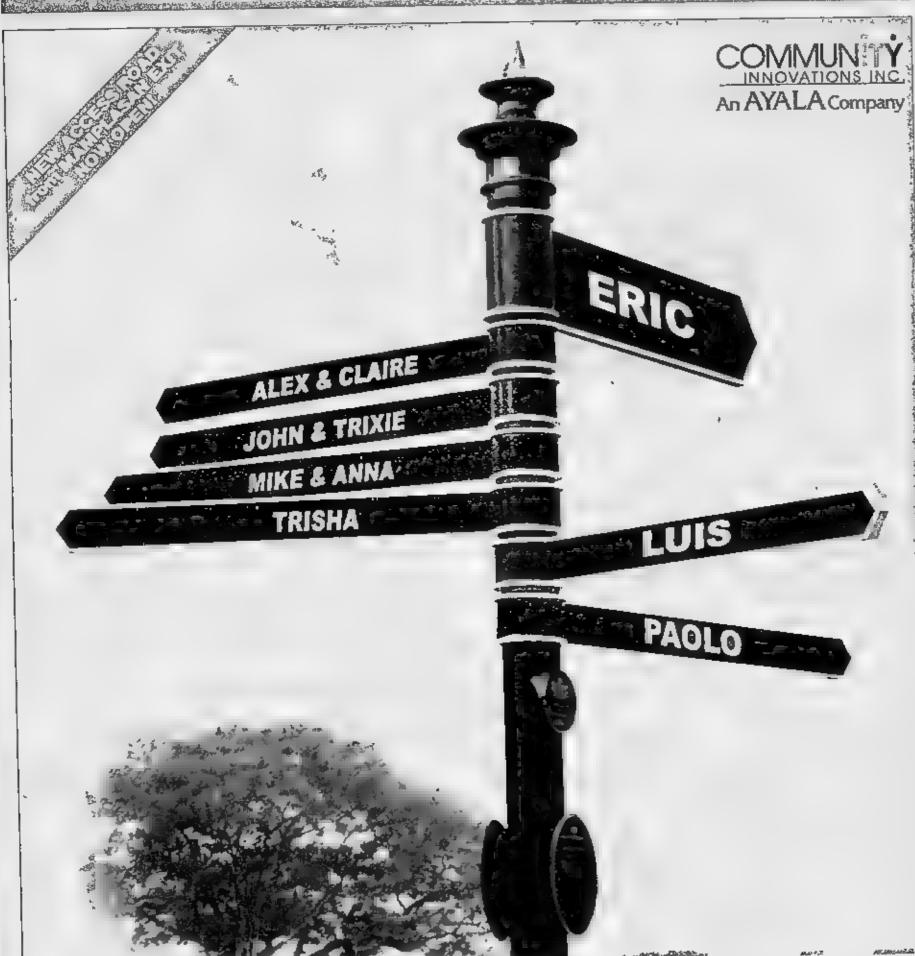
Jobs himself demonstrated the new and improved (Life, which had added another application to its roster, the iWeb, for creating websites and blogs in a snap.

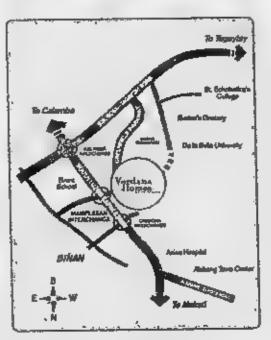
Another guest during the keynote, whose entrance carried far less fanfare, however, was Ro Ho, a spokesperson from Microsoft.

Ho pledged a five-year Microsoft commitment to ship new versions of Office for Mac and even better news for new Mac users-a 50-percent discount off Office when you buy a Mac.

Jobs began his speech on a high note, showing off the company's numbers for 2005. \$5.7 billion in revenue, \$1 million of which was made in Apple's retall stores in only the last quarter where 26 million people visited

The Macworld Conference & Expo was held Jan 9-13 and featured hundreds of new products in exhibit halls filled with over 300 companies serving the Mac community.





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Big is it for 2006

SPRING/SUMMER 2006 MUST-HAVES FOR women. According to US Vogue, the predommant spring/summer 2006 signature look is "Big!" Gym totes and small handbags are over; women need to have super-sized car-

ryalls. For shoes, chunky heels in platform or wedge are in style. Belts are wide, and buckles should be more pronounced and visible.

For necklaces, go for long and layered, which goes from the neck to the nether re-

So, time to overhau, your look and get on the 2006 fashion bandwagon.

Must-have CD-Chris Botti. I am going to be the first one to toot my horn about this. TNT was the first to introduce to the Filipinos such singers as Josh Groban, Mano Frangoulis, Russel Watson, Michael Bubié and Il Divo. If you agree that my batting average is good, then you must get this album, "Chris Botti-To Love

Both plays the trumpet and is a gifted composer and musician. I first beard and saw him when he first appeared on Oprah Winfrey's show. He is a Grammy nominee and performed alongside Josh Groban in the latter's concerts

Jazz is not my preferred istening choice, but this one is different. In the album, Botti is joined by gifted singers such as Sting (*What Are You Doing the Rest of Your Life"), Michael Bublé ("Let There Be Love"), Steven "Aerosmith" Tyler ("Charlie Chaplin's Smile"). And his instrumental tracks are nothing but magical, sexy and haunting, from "I'l Be Seeing You" to "Embraceable You" and the carrier single, "To Love Agam."

On the local front, there are two male singers that have awesome voices-Christian Bautista and Jed Madeia. They both are my contenders for Martin's and Gary's "King of Balads" throne. I purchased "Jed Madela's Songs Rediscovered" and was pleasantly surprised.

Madeia's cover of the survivor classic, "The Search is Over," is better than the original

For men-The return of the pocket square. In the past few years, men's evening wear has changed drastically. One particular subject of debate is whether a man should wear a ne or not

Personally, I like both. Neckties add color to a rather predictable wardrobe. And when you just want to go for that sexy, elegant look, there's nothing better than a bare (or harry) chest as an accessory.

There's one men's fashion accessory (first worn 400 years ago) that's making a comeback —the pocket square. Introduced in the men's spring/summer '06, from the YSL show to Dries Van Noten's, the pocket square is actually a handkerchief (silk or cotton, in different colors, either plain or with design), but when used in a suit, it's called that way.

How do you wear it? According to GQ magazine, "It should be worn in a neat square, with a flat fold at the top. It should ready just look like it's part of the ensemble, a clean brue accent."

There are well dressed men in the city who have atways worn the pocket square, but for those of us who want an accent to update our wardrobe, this is a great and elegant way to do

What I have learned so far? Now that we are halfway through the first month of 2006 and have broken just about every New Year's reso-Iurion, I would like to humbly share the things ! have learned in 2005

1. Never use the phones in hotel bathrooms. Once, as I sat on the seat of my hotel bathroom, the phone rang and I picked it up. When I placed it down, I realized how many people had sat on the same seat and used the phone. Scary thought!

2. TV poker. I don't know what it is about TV poker that amazes me. But when I got to playing it myself with relatives during the holiday, it was not that fun. Why? There were no TV cameras, announcers and a monitor showing my cards on TV.

3 Airline coffee sucks! Never toy with coffee. Since Starbucks entered the fray, I have been a cofferne junkie (consuming three to four cups a day) I have sworn never to drink those 3-in-1 instant blends. Since I traveled a lot last year, I have stayed away from coffee served in airplanes. (There are, however, some airlines that serve gourmet coffee.)

4. Pinoy news magazine shows are excellent. I remember being interested in news/commentary shows like "Probe" when it was on Channel 7. These shows showcased the good, the bad and the ugly in our country.

Recently "The Correspondents" (my favorite



THE RETURN of the pocket square-for every elegant man out there.

Τ'nΤ TRENDS & TRENDINGS

Anton San Diego

local TV show) had a piece on grandmothers in jail that was heart-wrenching, as well as a great story on Filipinos who made it in the US.

"Pipot" had a great feature on its annual People of the Year list. Although these shows are

not big moneymakers like soaps or sitcoms, they make us aware of current issues.

5. New year, new hope. I get such a lugh when I wake up at dawn just to see the first crack of daylight. And with the new year, I strive to make a new beginning, to make things right, to try and be the best I can be.

In life, I have learned that although there is room for errors and triumphs, there is no room for guilt or feeling sorry for myself. Once I have learned the lesson, I must move on.

Here's wishing you a great year of hope, light

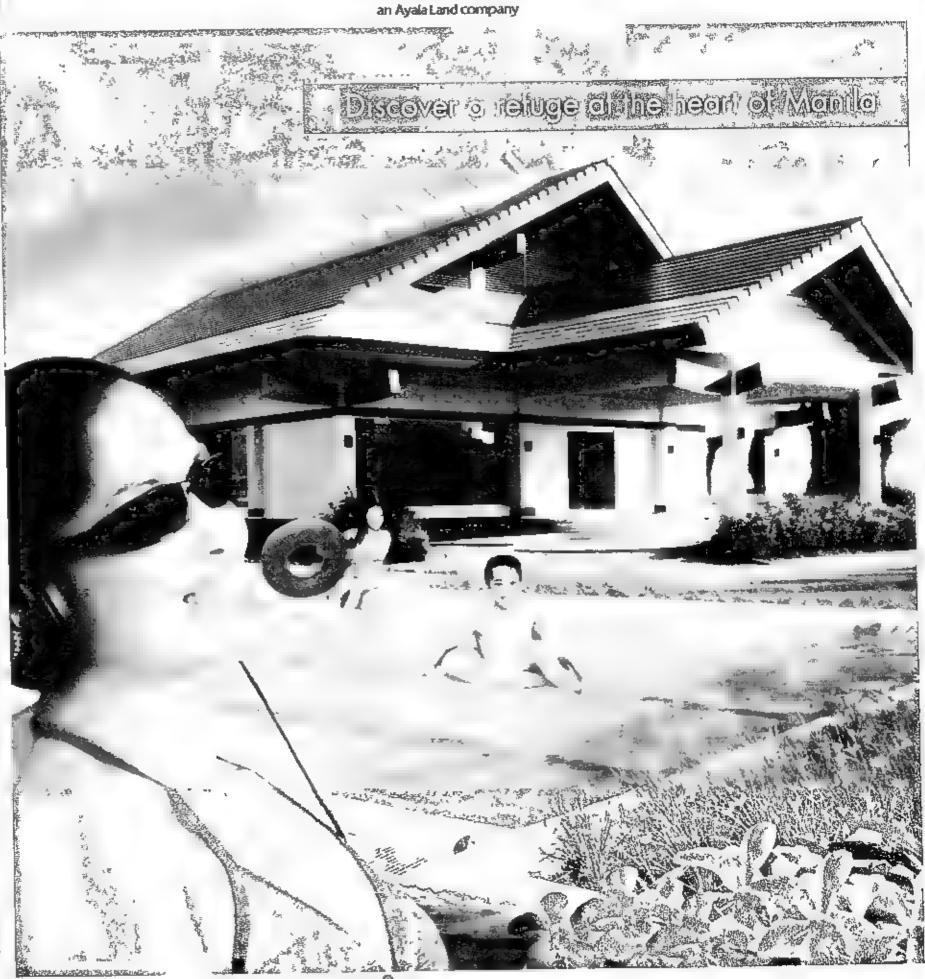
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WOMEN, chink big! Jewelry

should be bold, long and layered





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Sunday LIFESTYLE



MANGYAN Heritage Center head Lolita Fansler and designer Dita Sandico-Ong



ART LOVERS Tina Turalba and Ambeth Ocampo



MANGYAN exhibit guests Jun and Tessie Campello



CEBU'S society couple, Amparito and Michel Lhuillier



CEBU classy set Minnie Osmeňa, Denise Osmeňa, Margie Lhuillier, Georgia Osmeña, Gabby Leyson and Maybelline Te



PRETTY debutante Denise watches Latin dancers Jimmy Noel and Ariadne reinsquez.

and breastfeeding come together OTHING CAN ARREST TIME SO enjoy every moment whether it's experiencing your first kiss or kissing your grandchildren at might. I was once at that rebellious stage of being a teenager but it is all such a blur now. Last week, I was fondly remembering how it was to be 18 again with

so many promising plans. I recall one choice was my decision to go to finishing school in Switzerland in lieu of a debutante party.

After attending the 18th birthday party of my godchild, Denise Patricia Osmeña Jalandoni, I almost want to go back in time and have that debut anyway. Denise's party was an evening of dinner and dance, a well-choreographed celebration of a pretty teenybopper, who is turning out to be a really levelheaded lady.

I "inherited" my inaanak Demse from my late brother, Louie Prieto, who was her nanong in baptism. For her confirmation, I was one of her godparents along with ace photographer Pancho Escaler For the ceremony, we both flew to Cebu, where the family moved al-

most 10 years ago. When her ballroom-dancing mother, Georgia Osmeña (who celebrates her birthday today), asked me to be one of the 18 treasures of Denise at her coming-out party, I freed up my post-holiday schedule and flew to Cebu via always-on-time Cebu Pacific.

Although it was an extremely short trip, I still had a whole suitcase to check in because of my beautiful, royal blue gown by Dennis Lustico, and just as important, my breast pump, bottles and a small cooler. I have mastered the art of pumping and storing my breast milk whenever I travel so as to have continuous supply for my baby Athena. I have witnessed the incredible benefits of breast milk with Athena. She hardly catches a cold even with everyone around her getting sick.

There's an in-depth article about breastfeeding in this month's issue of Baby Magazine featuring Athena on the cover. In the article, I share my dilemmas and sacrifices in this whole experience. Although I am on the verge of quitting, Athena just latches on and is such a dedicated feeder.

Even at my beloved Emphasis Saion, I was breastfeeding while the styling team led by Victor Ortega worked on me before my 5 p.m. flight. With my hair decked out in feathers and rhinestones, the airport metal detector's alarms were ringing so loud. The airport anthropologist security must have thought I was from the set



When ballroom dancing

Tessa Prieto-

Valdes

TESSA

With my hair decked out in feathers and rhinestones, the airport metal detector's alarms were



ringing

so loudly

DUTCH Antoon Postma

of "Musawin"; they in fact joked that I might spread bird flu-

Ballroom dancing capital

Cebu is the capital of ballroom dancing. At last year's SEA Games, the dance sport competition was held there and the Philippines bagged almost all the medals. With Georgia ranking in the Games, small wonder that Denise's debut program included several show dances, including a number with her performing the waltz and foxtrot. After the debutante's first dance with her father, Louie Jalandoni, her friends performed a bellydancing number

After the speeches and wonderful biessings, performances in Latin dance, Argentine tango, mambo and waltz delighted the guests and had all dancing after the program Sexy, flowing outfits by talented Cebu designer OJ Hofer gave me costume ideas'

Among the 18 "treasures" (aunts and uncles bearing wishes and gifts) was international socialite Minnie Osmeña, fresh from her holiday vacation in Phuket, Thailand. She shared with me photos of her dining with world-renowned architect Ed Tattle, who is the principal designer of the Aman resorts. In the world of bigtime jetsetting, Minnie has the most impressive set of international celebrity friends.

Spa destination

Aside from ballroom dancing, Cebu is fast being recognized as a spa destination as well. In the December issue of AsiaSpa Magazine, Chi Spa at the Shangri-La's Mactan Island Resort was second on the Top 10 List of Spas for Christmas. This spa village has private massage cabanas and Watsu (Shratsu in-water therapy) pools and is a spanking new playground of wellness.

For short trips to Cebu, I also recommend a soothing, therapeutic stone massage treatment in Meddah Spa in Crossroads, Banilad, very near the Waterfront Hotel. The massage is quite reasonable and so relaxing

With the massive promotions of the Department of Tourism and the 2005 Baccarat AsiaSpa Awards of Mandala Spa in Boracay and The Farm at San Benito, the entire Philippines has been propelled into one of the top spa destinations in the world. Late last year, Mandala Spa (www.mandaiaspa.com) took home the top prize. Destination Spa of the Year and the coveted Spz Treatment of the Year for Watsu at BASA, which were announced before 120 plus spa owners at the InterCommental Hotel in Hong Kong.

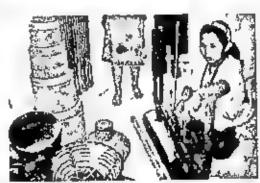
The Farm at San Benito won Med-Spa of the Year Award for its world-class medical and alternative, preventive healthcare and natural healing programs. Truly, we have so many things to be proud of armost all the negative issues happening around us.

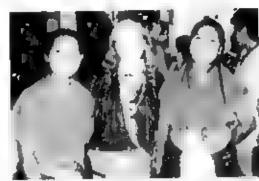


MEDLEY of dances by Sea Games dancers



MAMBO number by Denise and her 18 male





TRADITIONAL Mangyan outfit made of pandan plant and rattan

Mangyan gig

At the ongoing "Myth and Meaning" exhibit at the Ayala Museum, we can also be proud of the indigenous crafts and writings of the Mangyan people. Catch the exhibit, which runs until Jan. 23, and experience the ancient script of this race. Afterwards, have lunch at M Cafe and enjoy the sumptuous recipes with traditional ingredients. The café has placemats that teach

you to write your name in Mangyan, the only remaining original script that's stil intact

Rushing to the opening in my eth modern-day version, Mangyan Center Heritage Lolita head Fansler quickly changed me into the proper outfit complete with a headbeaded band. I had to reject getting into a pandan-fiber



G-STRING fashlonistas Kidlat Tahimik and son, Kabunyan de Guia

and a rope-style bottom as these would have meant too much skin (and fait) exposure for me.

On Jan. 19, two lectures on the Mangyans will be given at the Ayala Museum starting at 9:30 a.m. One will be on their images, given by National Museum consultant John Silva, and the other will be on their writing, given by Fansler. Admission is free so come and get cultured!

A wonderful thought as we start the year Time does heal all wounds, mend all broken bridges and even make civil any messy relationships

E-mail the author at seaprincess@inquirer.com.ph



BACCARAT AsiaSpa Awards winners Beni Gomez, editor Catharine Nicol, Mandala Spa owner Karen Villarica-Reina, The Farm at San Benito owner Perla Rempe, publisher Olivier Burlot and Kate Rodrigo



DEBUTANTE family Georgia Osmeňa and Loule Jalandoni with kids Javy, Denise and Joanna

'Simple' daughter-in-law becomes a fashionista

DEAR EMILY,

This letter concerns my new daughter-in-law. We've been residents of the United States for nearly 40 years and both my children are Americanborn and bred

One of them, my son, has an MBA from an ivy league university. After working for a company for two years, he and a friend put up their own business and they'd been very successful.

I always prayed that he'd marry a Filipino woman because I am quite old-fashioned. I was very happy when he said he met someone from the Visayas and fell head over heels in love with her. She was a waitress.

Before I knew it, they were already living together. The girl was pretty, shy and quite simple. According to people her kids unless we had all

who knew her then, their family was really poor.

She had been to Manila less than five times in her life. She had been a working student and only experienced comfort when their family was petitioned to go to the US.

Eventually, my son married her and we noticed a blg change in her. When before she dressed simply, she now only wears clothes from Lord & Taylor or Saks. She travels constantly with my son and remarked that the shoes from Milan "fit better." I let those remarks go because I understood how deprived she was growing up.

Our problem started when she began acting so haughtily as though to the manner born. She wouldn't allow us to hold

EMILY'S Post A. Marcele

washed our hands. We could only knock silently and not ring her doorbell when they were all home.

She stays home the whole .day with a part-time maid and acts like a queen and won't even cook for my son. Instead, she'd wait for him to come home and let him do it.

I pity my son because, besides traveling so much and working so hard, he still has to do housework. To top it all, she hardly talks to us or greets us

so-beso me before their mar- seems to be still in that "awed" riage but now, we're like stage where she can't believe her strangers!

I can see that my son is starting to be annoyed by all this and I want to talk to him to put some sense in his wife's head I don't know if that is the right thing to do.

ANNOYED MOTHER-IN-LAW

Please hit the brakes when you feel like meduling in your son's life. Your watch over him is finished. He now has his own branch of your family tree to take care of-by himself

Their problems, disagreements, annoyances or whatever is shaking their marriage is theirs to solve-not yours. Let them be. Leave them be.

Your daughter-in-law needs

when we meet. She used to be- all your understanding. She good fortune in marrying well

You can understand how bewildering all this is to her Give her time to adjust to a life of comfort. As the saying goes, "You can catch more flies with honey than with vinegar."

Start being her friend by making friendly overtures. Draw her out of her parochial cocoon and teach her that "moneyed" people need not be haughty or hostile toward each other. Make her feer at ease with her deficiencies and allow her space to brush off her feeling of inferiority.

She'll overcome her insecurities and eventually relax as she finds the most comfortable corner of her new world that she can claim as her own. It's a big

and cruel environment out there and this poor probinsiyana is trying her darndest to cope by presenting this unfriendly façade

Give her time. She's been poor too long and she's been rich on y for some time, I think she wil, like being rich enough to make her change her present "unsavory" behavior and appearance and revert to her old sweet self that your son fell in love with. They're young and time is on their side.

In the meantime, ask Santa Pactencia to top up your cup when it runs low.

(E-mail the author at emarcelo@inquirencom.ph, Subject: Lifestyle, or send your letters to In-QUIREA. Listen to Ms Marcelo cohost the program "Kahkasan Vigilante," 7:15-8:30 p.m., Monday-Friday, on dwBR 104.3 FM.)

Sunday LIFESTYLE

Children's prayers are answered

After three years,

the San Lorenzo Ruiz

Bulacan was completed

church in San Jose,

Ultraportable

Compaq

recommends

Professional

Windows*

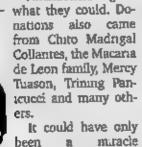
THE SAN LORENZO RUIZ CHURCH IN SAN José, Bulacan will be consecrated and dedicated at 10 a.m., Jan. 22.

Fr. Mario José Ladra remembers that children from the squatters' area would pray every morning saying, "Lord, gawin mo na ang sımbahan namın para makapagsimba na kamı sa ngalan ni Jesus, Amen."

Fr. Mario would invite the children living behind the church every morning to have breakfast with him. Afterwards, they would go inside the chapel and pray.

It took three years to build the church, rectory and pastoral center on the 1,000-sq-m lot in Pleasantville subdivision donated by the Ruben Reyes clan of Bulacan.

PURELY PERSONAL



wrought by God, through the intercession of San Lorenzo

Panshioners gave

Josephine Darang

Ruiz, patron saint of migrants, that P25 million was raised. The church was designed by architect Joseph Herrera and engineer Leonardo Nicolas. Rolando Plores designed the altar in the retablo-style and made of old wood from Betis, Pampanga.

Francisco Vecin did the images of San Lorenzo Ruiz and St. Joseph. Fr. Mario bought the antique five-foot image of Our Lady of the Holy Rosary from Vecin.

With the Virgin at the center and the two saints on either side, the retable altar looks resplendent

The church, "Aming Handog sa Diyos," is ready for blessing by Bishop José Olivares. He will be assisted by Infanta Bishop Rolando Tria Tirona, Bishop Federico Escaler and Bishop Emeritus Cirilo Almario. Priests from the diocese have been invited to concelebrate.

The life story of San Lorenzo Ruiz is depicted on the carved front doors and glossy stained-glass windows

Festival

Bulak is the old name of San Ildefonso town in Bulacan. At 2 p.m., on Jan. 21, there will be a parade of floats depicting the history of the town. Fr. Johann Sebastian says street dancers will precede every float that will feature the cultural and religious traditions of San Ildefonso.

in charge of the festival are Ft Johann, Vic Cruz and Cora Inobero. Preparations for the fiesta on Jan. 23 are being made by Dr. Gil Viliacorte, engineer Paul Cruz and Fr. Leo Coronel, parish priest.

Novena Masses will be held at 5 p.m., unti-Jan. 22. The Bishop's Mass will be at 9 a.m., on Jan. 23. Masses will be held every hour, then there will be a procession in the evening.

Visiting image

The National Center of St. Philomena at 430 Mayon St., Quezon City, is preparing for the visit of the three-foot image to hospitals, schools and convents. The visit would last nine days, as in a novena.

Those interested can text 0918-5470605. Expenses for travel, especially by air or boat, have to be shouldered by those making the request.

The Most Holy Redeemer Parish, the Santuario de Santa Philomena, celebrated the feast of the patronage of the saint on Jan. 8, and her birthday on Jan. 10.

The 2006 calendar of St. Philomena, with colored pictures and catechism instructions, is available. Send text messages to the cell phone number mentioned earlier.

Favored

A lay missionary, Sister Liha Pre, wrote to say, "I have gone all over the Philippines propagating the Holy Family, sincere devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus and Black Nazarene. I would like to say the Divine Mercy has been good to us Filipinos.

"As servant of the Lord, I encourage everybody to have a fervent devotion to Him especially during Christmas because He saved our land, the Philippines, from tsunami and earthquake that devastated Thailand, Indonesia, Malaysia and other places Dec. 26, 2004. At 3 a.m., on Dec. 24, 2004, 1 had a dream. I saw Jesus wearing a white robe floating in the atmosphere above the Marikina River banks. Suddenly, he landed east of the river.

"[Next], I saw Jesus again, so big and tall [bathed in] dazzling light, standing before the Claro M. Recto bridge facing the road bound for Quiapo and the city hall of Manila.

"Truly, Jesus showed His endless love and compassion for us despite our weaknesses and failures. Indeed, we Filipinos are number one in His Sacred Heart throughout the whole world because of our strong faith in Him."

Words of wisdom

Fr. Orlando Sapuay, former provincial superior of the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette, has written inspiring one-liners for a deak calendar published by Bernadette Yap, sister of Julie Yap-Daza. With photographs by Cecile Hidalgo Peronilia, the one-liners are designed for dayto-day reflections. To buy, please text Bernadette at 0916-8215982 or call 9326339.

Goodbye, 'Tita' Dulce

Teresita Afiover Rodriguez called herself "Tita Dulce" when she wrote an advice column for almost 16 years in the Lifestyle section of this paper. Tita Duice passed away recently due to an aneurysm. Condolence to her family and her readers.





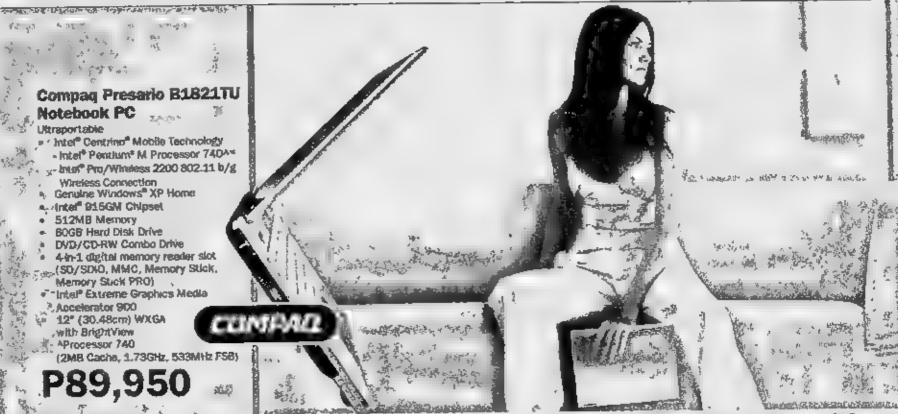


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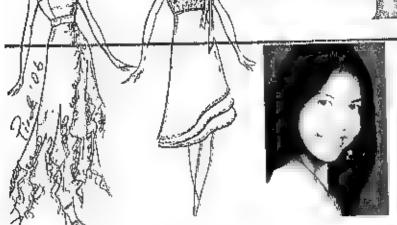
Texts
Local Sun-to-Sum

The state of the s

"Undersided applies to local Star-to-Sun rails and fauls."

UNLIMITED

ATTUCKETE TENEDO



QUINTANA DEBUT

Elia Mae Quintana, daughter of Emilie Quintana, celebrated yesterday her 18th birthday with a dinner dance Eric Pineda designed the debutante's gown using monochromatic saimon-pink chiffon. The bodice had a single strap adorned with handmade petals and leaves pailletes and Swarovski crystals. The multi-layered skirt was interspersed with nude-colored chiffon and traced with caviar beads. She changed later to an empire-cut dress with a fully beaded bodice in lemon-yellow and chartreuse pebble georgette



MANAPAT DEBUT

Jenel B. Manapat, daughter of Jesus and Nelia Manapat, recently celebrated her 18th birthday at Ibarra's Garden, Manila. She is a sophomore Communication Arts major at the University of Santo Tomas. The debutante wore a strapless pomelo-and peach ball gown accentuated with floral bead appliqués. Video and photography was by Printshoppe Digital Studio, San Ildefonso, Buracan.



REY-GUEVARRA

Sharen Guevarra will marry Voltaire Rey at 3 p.m., Jan. 20, at the Christ the King Parish Church, Greenmeadows Avenue, Quezon City. The bride is the daughter of German Sr and Virginia Guevarra, while the groom is the son of Ching Vitto-Rey Sharen will be wearing an Edward Teng creation A garden reception follows in Albergus at Capitol Hills. Quezon City.



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Sunday &

We welcome announcements of weddings and engagements. Submit names of engaged couple, names of parents, date and place of wedding, and gown designer along with a photo of the couple and a sketch of the bridal gown, if any, to the Inquiren, PO. Box 2353 Makati Central Post Office 1263 Makati City. E-mail to lifestyle@inquiren.com ph. A photo of the bride and groom is required if the wedding has already taken place. Announcements will be printed depending on space availability and at no cost to the senders.



URSUA DEBUT

Melanie Ann Ursua, youngest
daughter of Dr. Ronnie and Meriem Ursua, celebrated recently her 18th birthday at Villa Caceres
Hotel in Naga City.
She is a freshman at the Ateneo de Manila
University taking up
BS Management.



AGUILA 65TH
ANNIVERSARY
Ramon Sr. and
Lydia Aguila celebrated recently their
65th wedding anniversary with a renewal of vows attended by their children, children inlaw, grandchildren,
relatives and friends
in Kalayaan Christian Church in

lbabao,

Batangas.



CELINO-LOPEZ Luis P. Celino Jr.,

son of Luis Sr and Teresita Celino, will wed Janice P Lopez, daughter of Anacleto Sr. (†) and Gregoria Lopez, Jan 22, at St. Therese Parish, Dagupan City. Reception will follow at the Dagupan Garden Hotel, Lucao District, Dagupan City.



BASILASIMEON
Banjo M.
Basila of Naic,
Cavite, will
wed Faye D.
Simeon of
Bamban, Tarlac, on Jan. 21,
at the Shrine
of Jesus, the

Way, the Truth

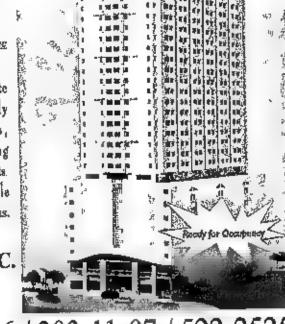
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Cuenca,

Welcome to Painmidge, the latest community to rise in Sto Tomas Batangae that offers the comfort of family living in the countryside combined with the breathtaking view of the majestic Mt. Makiling.

This 14-hectare master-planned project offers house and lots for as few as Php 1.2M and lots only packages for only Php 420,000.

Enjoy the refreshing climate, secure environment, and the availability of public transportation giving you easy access to hospitals, banks, commercial and business establishments, schools and industrial parks.

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MAGNOLIA 47 som usable floor area MARIGOLD 65.00 som usable floor area WALNUT 115.80 som usable floor area CYPRESS 156.50 som usable floor area

Piease join us at our launching on January 22, 2006, 9AM - 5PM.





FUTURA

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Only 10 militates from the STAR authors of fundables thing bank, PAC-1810 and in-liveurs fundating the state of the state



Sunday LIFESTYLE

While most sharks are guaranteed to clear beaches of people, the 'butanding' is drawing tourists to Donsol



DESPITE its name, the whale shark poses no threat to anyone.







By Nino Jacinto Contributor

"AYAN!" shouted the whaleshark spotter.

We hurriedly put on our snorkels and waited to jump from the bangka for our first encounter with whale sharks, the gentle giants of Donsol.

A small coastal town in Sorsogon, Donsol is a 12 hour drive from Manila (another way is to fly to Legazpi City and travel by taxt for an hour)

Townsfolk say they have been seeing the whale sharks (locally known as butanding) for decades, but it was only starting in 1998 that butanding sightings in Donsol were publicized. Since then, tourists had flocked to Donsol to see the marine creatures. In the two days we were there, we met Poles, Irish, Swedes, Germans, Brazilians and Dutch.

Though called "whale shark," it is not related to the whale, a mammal. Butanding is a fish with gills. Like other sharks, it has several gill shits and a skeleton made of cartilage (not bone)



ENIOYING the sun, sea and whale sharks: the author, Neuza Araujo, Homer Cu, Butanding Interaction Officer Alan Amanse and Jun Villareal

The word "whale" is used simply because of its size. It can grow up to 15 meters in length and weigh up to 15 tons, making it the largest fish in the world.

Vegetarian

Despite its size, a whale shark eats whale sharks in Donsol may be due to an shark population is available, scienusss

abundance of plankton.

But the fish's massive size and placid nature make the whale shark an easy target for hunters. It is hunted for its meat and fins that are in demand in Tarwan and Hong Kong.

In 1998, the Philippine government mainly plankton (microscopic organisms enacted laws to protect whale sharks. floating in the sea). The presence of Though no accurate figure of whale

agree the number is very low. The World Conservation Union (IUCN) considers the fish a "vulnerable" species.

As I waited to jump, I looked for signs of the presence of the whale snark. Some 20 meters from the boat, a dark shadow moved just below the surface.

As it drew near, the Butanding Interaction Officer (BIO) shouted, "Talon!" I followed the BIO and after about 10 seconds he stopped, looked down and pointed at something. I followed the direction of his finger but saw nothing.

Then the whale shark emerged, its blunt, flattened head about 1 1/2 meter wide. I dove and swam about a meter away from it. The whale shark cruised eisurely, its tail gracefully moving. It did not seem to be bothered by six humans swimming around it.

Although it could have easily swatted us away with its huge fins, it allowed us to swim so closely that we could almost

Odd creature

I took a close look at one of the most oddly designed animals. Most of the fish's body net

was covered with a gnd-like pattern. Inside each square of the grid was a white dot, giving its back the look of a checkerboard.

Rising to the surface, I looked at the whale shark from the top, it was truly huge. Its long pertoral fins (the fins located on both sides) looked like amplane wings. Its body was about eight meters long and 2 1/2 meters wide at the mid-sec-

Through the combined efforts of the community, local government, international donor agencies and concerned citizens like Carina Escudero, a dedicated environmentalist and underwater cinematographer, the butanding seemed to have been rescued from the brink of ex-

Now the sight of the butanding can be enjoyed almost every day from November to May. During our trip in early February, we had 15 sightings in just two days.

In fact, Time magazine, in its Nov. 22, 2004 issue, said Donsol was "The Best Place for an Animal Encounter" in Asia.

E-mail the author at ninojac@platdsl.

Cebu does best of Broadway

held one day after another at the ballroom of the Waterfront Hotel. Lea Salonga featured in one, with the corresponding type. It was a sold out show.

But we have to say she was overshadowed by the Arts Council Goes Broadway the night be-

The show raised funds for the council's annual program of free performances by international artists and for its ambitious scholarship program.

Waterfront lent the ba..room for free, and Guam-based Cebuano director Benjie Diola slashed his fee for the dear old Arts Council.

Everyone performed for free. They were all featured in the opening number "Everything's Coming up Roses," which was very aprindeed

Applause, applause, for Benedick Leyson, Joy Tenerife, Al.ño, Rhina Monette Echivarre, Henry de Loyola, Manny Noval, Marissa Pernan, Dr. Randy Libres, Dr. Emerson Donardo, Cebu City Vice Mayor M.ke Rama, Lorrame Dytian, Francis Onglatco, Rafaelita Golez, Pr. Jun Agravante, Ma. Celeste Celeste, Bing Lim, Cand.ce Grace Cabras, and Crysta. Esmero, the council's scholar for voice.

The "Big Spender" number from "Sweet Charity" had a lot of comph. It starred Cebu City Pirst Lady Margot Osmeña, Arts Council president Petite Garcia, Dominique Riegel, Lotlot Neri,

TWO GRAND EVENTS WERE Mariter Klepp, Alicia Plaza, Soma Yuvallos and Elvira Lu Ym.

Benedick and Joy did the duet "Sun and Moon" from "Miss Saigon," followed by a snappy "Surrey with a Fringe in Top" from "Oklahoma." Arts Council vice president Maxwell Espina played Will Parker Dancing along in cowboy gear were Marget Villarica, Joan Tiu, Marielou Pitor, Alice Queblatin, Cookie Chan, Sheila Colmenares, Connie Cimafranca, and Cherry Lynn Callelero.

Chorus line

I never thought I'd do a



THE SHOW raised funds for the council's scholarship program, among others.

CEBU CEBU Jaime Picornell

Charleston in public but I'll do anything for the Arts Council, of which I was once president And so there I was, Herod in Jesus Christ Superstar," bouncing in a fringed satin robe, diamond trara and all. What a chorus line I had, too: Arts Council VP Vivina Yrastorza, Petite, Margot, Dominique, Sonia, Alicia, Elvira, Mariter, Lotlot, Marissa Fernan, and Dr. Lydia Alfonso. My son videotaped it and we'd been laughing no end at home.

Manny Noval's dramatic medley from "Pippin" led to another rousing number, "It's A Hard-Knocked Life" from "Annie." Vivina, Dominique, Elena Young, Margot, Joan, Marielou, Alice, Cookie, Sheila, Connie, Cherry Lynn and Mariter were the most impish orphans ever, pillow-fighting and having a romp, Entered Annie. It was hilarious with Karl Hudson, GM of the Marriott Hotel, in a skimpy red skirt, showing tight bloomers beneath. The song: Tomorrow," what else?

Marissa and Dr. Donaldo stole the show with their rendition of "Till There Was You" from "The Music Man."

The audience swooned and

hummed, and some even followed the lyrics of "Hello Dolly." Teresin M. glided about in red gossamer specially made by Arcy Gayatin, a plumed hat daintily perched on her golden hair. Completing the showstopper were tuxedo-clad Marco, Winglip Chang, Clint Escaño, JP Mendoza, Jaime Chua, Manny N, Dr. Donaldo, Fr Agravante, and Omar Espina.

Architect Tessie Javier, Margot O., Petite and Joan formed the girl quartet for "Greased Lightning that brought the house down. The jeans-clad guys: Rogelio Alayre, Jace Magallanes, Marton Flores, Altan Lester Loroño.

Showcased

Rhina Echivarre's soprano was showcased in "Think of Me" from "Phantom of the Opera." She also did a beautiful duet with Vice Mayor Mike R .- "Fallen" from "They're Playing Our Song."

A revelation was Monette Aliño, in shimmering red, doing aria-style, "What Kind of Fool Am 17" from "Stop the World, I Want to Get Off.*

Another soprano, Candice, scored well with her solo, "With One Look" from "Sunset Boule-

Then it was time for a highpowered scene from South Pacific. Elena, Mariter, Vivina, Dominique, Petite, Elvira, Soma, missa and Margot donned white ducks and caps as sailors



Naila, Arnel Gamboa and Mark THE AUDIENCE swooned and hummed, and some even followed the lyrics of "Hello Dolly."

in There Is Nothing Like a Dame.* They seemed to be having loads of fun. A series of love duets fol-

lowed: Lorraine and Francis, as Tup Tim and Lun Tha from "King and I"; Oche Golez and Fr. Jun, as Queen Guinevere and Lancelot from "Camelot", Ma. Celeste and Randy, as Maria and Tony from "West Side Story"; Bing and Crystal in scenes from "Jekyll and Hyde."

Well applauded

A powerful anti-clumax was "What a Circus" from "Evita," with Mariquita Yeung as Che Guevara and the show director Benjie doing Eva Peron to perfection. Many did not recognize him. Tessie Javier and Eric Berdon were applauded for

their wild tango. The Sandlego Dancers completed the cast

Everyone appeared on stage for the finale-"Ease on Down the Road" from "The Wiz," dressed in jeans painted like the yellow brick road and shining under the lights.

Margot O. was impish as Dorothy, Vice Mayor Mike was the most handsome Lion, Marco was the Tin Man, and Randy, the Scarecrow, which he definitely isn't with his good looks and sunny disposition.

After curtain call, the cast, still in costume and makeup, mingled with the audience to receive hugs, kisses and general congratulations

How much did we make? Secret, someone said. Enough, winked another.

. Sunday LIFESTYLE . . N. C. LADOR OF THE STREET AND THE STREET AN

'Swarm' your garbage problems

THE SOLID WASTE REDUCTION Master Plan or SWARM Plan started two years ago as an information and education campaign to address waste management problems of the country, particularly Metro Manila.

It was the result of initiatives by Dr. Angelina P. Galang, executive director of the Environmental Studies institute of Mirjam College (Mirjam-ESI), who invited representatives from the academic and government sectors, nongovernment organizations and environmentalists to planning sessions to search for solutions to the city's never-ending garbage prob-

The main thrust of SWARM Plan is to reduce the amount of waste that must be collected on a regular basis and, when possible, recycle and reuse it as compost to help boost the food supply of individual families.

To get things going, SWARM Plan held a summit meeting Nov. 30-Dec. 1 at Le Pavilion, Roxas Blvd., corner Ed-

sa, Metropolitan Park, Pasay City. The plan aims to reduce the total volume of waste by at least 60 percent, at the same time encourage urban gardening with the use of compost. Composting in handy receptacles in home yards will not only assure a steady food supply for the family but added income as well.

Practical, profitable

SWARM Plan is supported by statistical data and studies along economic lines that show it to be not only doable but even, to some extent, profitable.

Some of the facts presented to summit participants were: Metro Manila consisted of 17 local government units (LGUs) and was home to more than 12 million Filipmos

A publication of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, "The Garbage Book," put the current per capita waste generation rate at 360 grams daily. "In the next 30 years,



the National Capital Region will generate over 70 million tons of a mammoth volume of 70 billion kilos of solid waste."

The book projected that these figures would require 21.5 million truck trips, an undertaking best understood perhaps if we visualized the trucks moving in one line. They would be able to go around Earth three times or reach halfway to the moon-

That picture was made more disturbing by another fact: "Since the approximate land area of Metro Manila is 630 sq km or 630 million sq m, the amount of garbage generated-70

million tons-equates to a knee-deep layer of waste over the entire metropolis."

Billions annually

To collect, transport and dispose of waste wherever it is still allowed to be dumped, the 17 LGUs of Metro Manila appropriate public funds that come up to P295 per capita or P3 54 billion annually. But with the shutdown of some dumpsites and the costly construction of sanitary landfills, the problem continues to be alarming.

Acting on those problems is clearly the need of the moment, which is why the SWARM Plan was launched. It received an initial, modest funding from the government and, with this, the group concentrated its first efforts on those sectors identified as the biggest generators of waste in Metro Manila.

Besides Miriam-ESI, which is responsible for contacting schools, SWARM Plan members include Zero Waste Recycling Movement of the

Philippines Foundation Inc., responsible for subdivisions; Mother Earth Foundation, for barangays; Ayala Foundation, for commercial centers; Polystyrene Packaging Council of the Philippines, for business centers; and Concerned Citizens against Pollution, for wet markets.

For more information, contact Alma Arcena at 5805400 (local 3560), 9205093 (direct) or 4359240 to 46 (local 266).

E-mail the author at dorisnuyda@ya-

GRAND TOURS of 2006

28-22 Jan. BANAUE Rico Terrores TOUR (w/ Segada, Bonton Bungates Village, Guihob Natural Pool) 27-29 Jan. ILOCOS TOUR w/ Pagadpud (*Manning, VII.AN. Sesso, Serres, Paper, LAGAG)
3-5 Feb. BICOL & SORSOGON Rediscovery (Lake & Caveton spring resort, Mr. Mayon, Cave, Tivel & Naga) 25-26 Feb BAGUIO Flower Festival 2006 23-26 Feb CAGAYAN VALLEY & ILOCOS REGION (Inshels, PIAT, Callies Cave, Iguig, Aparti, Paguéped & Vigan) HOLYWEEK TOURS available!! Other Touris Many HORACAY BOHOL & CEBL, PALAWAN, Pligrimago, Lakbay Anal, Tourist Bus Hire, Company Outing or inquiries cell: ENGHANDE TRAVEL FHILS For inquires call: ENGHANDE TRAVEL PH C-8921-9796165, Tel:851-0704, 851-0701

Latest in laundry technology

GERMAN PREMIUM HOME APPLIance maker Miele (pronounced Meele) joined recently the Friends for Cultural Concerns of the Philippines (FCCP) in holding "Carnevale di Venezia" at the NBC Tent at Fort Bonifacto Global City for the benefit of the National Museum.

Miele presented its latest innovations in laundry technology meant to take care of the most delicate and expensive fabrics. Its initial line of washing machines for the Philippine market-the W2104 Softronic Washing Machine, the W2584 WPS Allerwash Washing Machine, and the W2888 WPS Navitronic Washing Machine-were showcased with Ethan Allen furniture in a boudour setting at the foyer of the NBC tent. Guests had an opportunity to show their costumes and have their pictures taken in the Miele area.

The premium washers are meant to give the very best care to elegant clothing. With Miele's unique honeycomb drum, a thin film of water cushions the garments from the drum, thus reducing breakage of delicate fibers and pilling.

The masquerade ball raised the target amount for the National Museum. Miele made the night even more special by giving a Best in Costume award for the person with the most elegant attire. The award went to Louta Escobar-Mirpun, founder-president of the Makati Ladies Executive Club.



MIELE'S unique technology reduces breakage of delicate libers.

Founded in Germany in 1899, Miele is a ploneer in automated laundry technology. In 1901, it built the first wooden-tub washer and has since led the way in laundry technology. In 1978, it came out with the world's first computer-controlled washing machine and tumble dryer with electronic sensors. Today, it boasts of being the first to use a PCupdate function and a program for hand-washable woolens.

Miele is exclusively distributed by Focus Global Inc., with showroom located at Pioneer corner Reliance Sts., Mandaluyong City. Showroom is open Tuesdays-Saturdays, from 10 a.m. to 7 p.m., and on Sundays, from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m. Call 6348587.

Workshop on cement pot-making

A HANDS-ON WORKSHOP ON cement pot-making will be conducted by Ikebana professor Serapion S. Metilla 1-6 p.m., Jan. 21-22, at Metts Plant Arts, King Louis Garden Center, Seedling Bank corner Edsa and Quezon Avenue, Quezon

Each participant will make three projects—a flower vase, pot for bonsai or dish garden or catch basin for waterfall, and a stand. All materials will be provided. Participants get a certifi-cate at the end of the work-

On Jan. 29, a hands-on workshop on miniature landscaping and gardening inside glass cases called terrarium will be held. Both plant arts are intended for indoor decoration. Care and maintenance of indoor plants will also be discussed. All materials will be provided.

Early registration is required. Call 9394593, 4352479 or 0917-8321352.



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SUNDAY CROSSWORD



welcomes 2006 with Gary Valenciano.

January 17, 2006 Cocktails 6:00 pm Show starts 8,30 Metropolitan Athletic Club [MAC] Estrella corner Amapola sts. Makati City

Preview Philtown's latest development, The Metropolitan The only affordable premiere residential condo that comes with a sports resort membership.

> For invitations, please call 830-0455 to 57, 890-5711 to 14 or 0917-8536539.

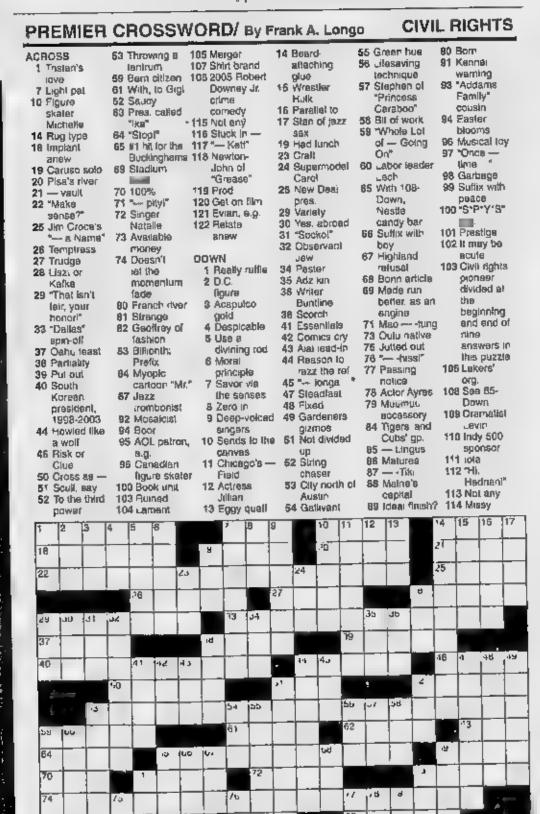


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answer on page C3

easide Life at Anvaya Cove

premium residential sensude home-the mamate in luxury living. The prospect of views, cool breezes, and access on wide sandy beachfront seem to be stuff that movies are made of. The discriminating few who have traveled

lessure destinations abroad will be gratified to know that such un idyllic lifestyle can actual y be experienced not only " foreign places but in areas of our very own nature-rich Philippines.

Ayale Land Premier's Anvaya Cove



Anyaya Cove home. Developed together with renowned local architectural and design firm, LV Loesin and Partners, the villas are set on humanously large lot cuts Asian Tropical design that complements and blends with the natural surroundings. Each ville is composed of dual structures with deck and plunge pool

its close proximity to the main coverand Beach & Manue Clob provides the Seacide Villas with spectacular views and immediate access to the club's numerous amenities and activities. The services provided upon request will a convenient and effortless

history living experience.

With Ayala Land's reputation for excellence in property management, the Sesside Villas are some to be sound investrages that will shaud the test of time. Like the unforgettable family bonding experiences that will be formed within them, the Senside Villes will be treamired legacies for generalions to come.

Purchase of a senside villa or a residential lot in Anvaya Cove will require assimbership in the Aureya Cove

Beech & Nature Club Set in the blue waters of the the Subsc Bay at the footballs of Bataan the site is on adyelic vacation place for both land and water

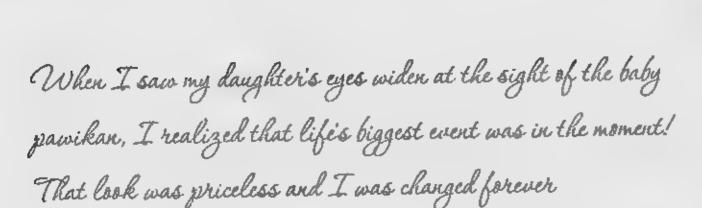
Kids and adults alike will only the main club cale, music lounge, and function rooms. The wine room is set aport for more infimate events. Summer fun is a sure thing with the varied experiences offered in the swimming pool complex and kiddle village. For activities on land, there is a Great Lawn for picnics or sport activities best played on noft, inviting grass such as frasher throwing, kite-flying and a friendly game of soccer There is also a lagoon for key afternooms of fishing or rowing. Overnight accommodations will be

evailable for members and their guests, At the main beach cove, the Pawikan beach bar and grillo provides food and

recreation for gatherings near the sea. A lookout tower provides architectural and visual interest as well. For more adventurous pursuits, Anvaya Cove's well-trained staff will provide assisted ecosystem explorations. Families and groups of friends can interact spontaneously with nature as well, venturing out on their own on biking paths and hiking trails. Activities are endless at Anveys Cove and its natural starroundings.

Learn more about how you can live the luxurious seaside bife at Anwaya Cove by calling 728-7050 or sending an e-meil to anyespecove@systetand.com.ph Visit its official website at www.anvayacove.com. Its Makati showroom is localed at Greenbell 3, Ayala Center Makati Italianni's restourent, telepisone number R92-3333.







Experiences made extraordinary. Anvaya Cove is a sanctuary to weary city folks as it is to some animals unique to this area located in Morong, Balaan; only 20 minutes away from the Subic Bay Freeport. Annually, pawikan hatchlings find their way back to the shore while migrating Mallard ducks fly inland to seek respite from the cold season.

In the heart of this enviable, exclusive lessure community is the Arwaya Cove Beach and Nature Club, designed for bonding and unique experiences that all family members can share.

Own a slice of parachse and dare to live the life you've always wanted. Select a residential lot where you can build your dream vacation home or own a luxurious

in your search for the ideal second home, there is absolutely no fersure community in the country that is as warm and inviting for your family as Arwaya Cove.

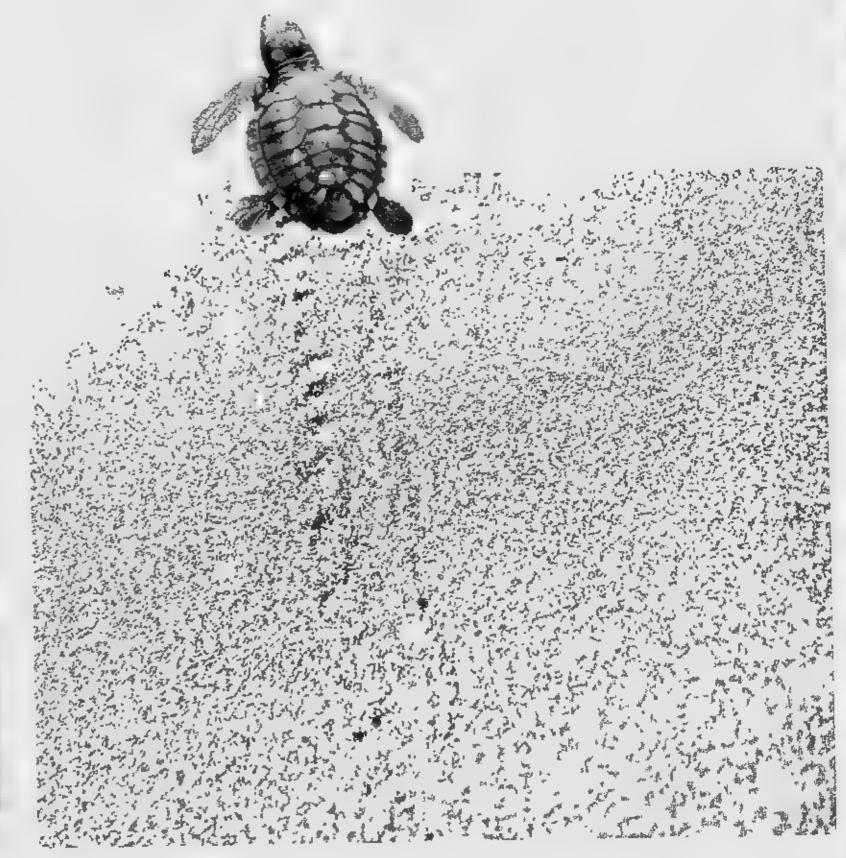
By Ayala Land, naturally

THE MANGO GROVE, ANVAYA COVE'S SECOND NEIGHBORHOOD IS NOW OPEN FOR RESERVATIONS.

Visit our Greenbelt Showroom at the Greenbelt 2 Garden, near Italiannt's and Segatredo and learn more about this dream vacation home

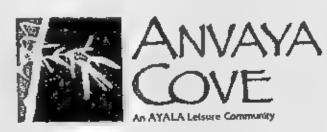


Or see us al our San Fernando, Pampanga Sales Office at Olongapo-Gapan Road comer Lazatin Street.



It's a family affair.







y of Santa Rosa, rising investmen

But you want had been been built to be the state of the contract that

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The City of Santa Rosa now enjoys the stature as the Rising Investment Capital of South Luzon, being an established industrial center which hosts major addistrial estates and business firms of international caliber. Dubbed as the "Little Detroit of the Philippines", it has the greatest concentration of car manufacturers and assemblers in the country. And aside from being tagged as the "Little Silicon Valley of the Philippines" due to as high concentration of semiconductor and electronic companies, the City is now being developed as the newest IT hub country with the opening of the Ayata Information Technology Park, the future center for business processes outsourcing and softwere development. There are also large-scale residential communities, commercial and recreations, facilities such as the Luguna Bei Air, Enchanted Kingdom and Santa Elena Golf Club and the soon-to-open SM City Santa Rosa, one of the biggest in this part of the country. These enterprises strengthen Santa Rosa's status as a rapidly modernizing residential, commercial and industrial community in South Luzon.

The rapid industrialization of Santa Rosa is indeed best represented by an array of premiere commercial, business and industrial estates, which significantly transformed its old rural landscape. Its three industrial estates, namely: Laguna Technoperk Inc., Santa Rosa Business Park and Mendian Industrial Complex accelerate the continued growth of the City

All of these we have attrifted because we have the qualities of a community which is conductive for business. The City of Santa Rosa is a strategic and ideal place for local and foreign entrepreneurs due to its proximity to major business centers, international seaports, airports and leisure and recreational facilities. It is also endowed with natural resources, cooler breezes with abundant rainfall soil with good water-bearing characteristics, which is an abundant source of high-quality potable water for residential, commercia, and industrial uses. We have flat, fertile and traigable land areas, which is surable to almost all agricultural endeavors. And more, the City boasts of much lower cost of land relative to other major cities.

Our human resources are world-class; our infrastructure, energy and telecommunication facilities are sufficient. Banks and financial Institutions are ample, peace and order situation is stable and industrial climate is peaceful due to local government consultarive mechanisms. There is also a strong partnership between the local government and he business sector through the Santa Rosa City Business Club for and other husiness groups which are more than willing to lend support to the development matiatives of this administration. Similarly, the local government is run by a strong and dynamic management team which is driven by a potent combination of experience and youthful creativity.

To welcome the year with a good start, we have also launched the Santa Rosa Expo 2006, a coordinated series of activities from Jan. 9 to 18, 2006, it aims to display the best that Santa Rosa can offer as on investment and cultural destination. Highinghas include the first Santo Rosa Auto Show, where the latest models of Santa Rosa-based automotive corporations are exhibited. Another first is the Bayanihan Foundation Parade, a street lest epitomizing the outstanding bayanihan spirit of the Filipino people

indeed, the Santa Rosa Expo 2006 provides a good start. And we are confident that for the rest of the year, we shall show that we have whan it takes to be dubbed as the lavestment Capital in Southern Luzon.

JOSE B. GATINDIG JR.

THE CITY OF SANTA ROSA IS A STRATEGIC GATEWAY TO Metropolitan Manila as well as to other provinces of the Calabaraon sub-region. From a 4th class municipality, Santa Rosa became a 1st class town in 1993 and was then declared as a city on July 10, 2004.

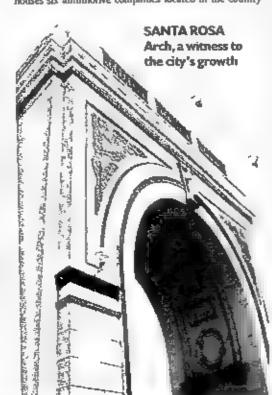
Host to several industrial estates Santa Rosa currently houses three globally competitive industrial estates, namely: Laguna Technopark which is the first industrial estate in the Philippines, Santa Rosa Business Park and Meridian Industrial Complex.

The Laguna Technopark Inc is a joint venture between Ayala Land Inc (the country's premiere property developer) and two world-resowned Japanese corporations, Mitsubish: Corp and Kawasaki Steel Corp. The 387-bectare site bouses international companies such as Golay Buchel, Henkel, Hitachi, Hooda, International Distillers, Isuzu, Matsushita, TDK, Fujinse Ten, Toshiba and Trihor.

There is also the Santa Rosa Business Park, a 260hectare integrated commercial, business and industrial park located in Barangay Don Jose. Among its major components as a premiere commercial project are the Greenfield ladustrial Center, Laguna Central Business District. Paseo de Santa Rosa, Country Market and Greenfield Automotive Park, where promisent companies such as Ford, Visteon Corp and Automotive Interior Corp are settled.

Meanwhile, the 20-bectare Meridian Industrial Complex also has its share of light to medium industries such as assembly plants and warehouses involving electrical parts, stop, familiare and décor, insulators and adhesives, construction and medicine

Home of big automotive, semiconductor and ICT companies Known as the "Detroit of the Philippines," Sama Rosa houses six automotive companies located in the country



Toyote, Ford, Nissan, Honda, Star Motor and Columbian Motors, which account for 85 percent of local automotive preduction.

Mesawhile, 30 percent of total electronics exports (sessiconductors, hard disk drives, lapsops and consumer appliances) come from Santa Rosa. Some of the ICT (infor mation communication technology) companies located in the city are Fujicau Ten, TDK, National Panasonic, Toshiba, Applior-Anam and Integrated Microelectronics, informs, the premier provider of directory assistance and enhanced information services, had just recently inaugurated its contact center facility, the first to rise in the city. Hence, Sama Rosa has also been dubbed as the "Silicon Valley of the Philipproes"

The presence of leading manufacturers and companies only attest that the demands of these industries are met and that Santa Rosa has what it takes to lead the competition. Quality facilities and support services

Santa Rosa boasts of a complete line of facilities (power, communications, water, transportation, infrastructure) and support services (residential subdivisions, schools, malls/leisure areas, banks, hospitals and a competitive workforce) required for the existence and expansion of any hosiness. Hence, doing business in Santa Rosa provides a conducive business environment for a profitable business venture. And there are still plenty of vacant lots to welcome newcomect.

There is uninterrupted power in Santa Rosa and connectivity is never a problem owing to the operation of Digitel, PLDT, Laguna Net, Pacific Net and Infocors, which provide phone and Internet services.

Santa Rosa has ample source of ground water, which can provide water for potable, commercial and industrial use. Besides the fact that the South Luzon Expressway, a major arriery to the south, straddles along the heart of Santa Rosa, there is also an excellent network of high-grade concrete national, provincial and barangay roads for an efficient roadway system. Transportation service is well provided by hus companies, taxis, shuttles, freighters and forwarders and jeepneys routing all major destination points in Metro Manila and Calabarzon. Air transport at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport is just 1.5 hours away. Sea transport on the other hand as but within two hours travel time either to the Batangas Port or Manila Port.

More than a brendred and twenty residential subdivisions dart Sama Rosa's landscape, ranging from high-end subdivisions (Lagona Bel Air, Sama Rosa Estates, Terra For tane, La Residencia, Fontanagiara, Belle Reve, Promenade etc), mad-range subdivisions and city government socialuzed housing units.

Schools and universities in all levels can be found within and near Santa Rosa. To name a few are Perperual Help Urvversity, Polyzechnic University of the Philippines-Santa Rosa Extension, De La Salle University-Canlubang, Don-Bosco, Adventist University, Laguna Bel-Air-Philippine Science, Dominican School, San Pedru College of Business and Arts, Pamantasan ng Cabuyan and St. Scholastica's Coilege-Westgrove. Soon to follow, too, are branches of use Universtry of Santo Thomas and University of Asia and the Pacific

There are loss of shopping males and supermarkers to choose from in Santa Rosa, namely: Robinsons Place, Target Mall, Walter Mart, South Supermarket, Paseo de Santa Rosa, Country Marker, Rustan's Supermarker and the soon-10-open SM City Santa Rosa. Within these malls are a long list of last food chains, bars and restaurants leisure seekers



may choose from Golf enthusiasts may choose from two world-class golf courses, the Santa Rosa Golf and Country Club and the Country Club where the recent Asean Games were held. Santa Rosa is also but an hour away from the leisure areas of the Tagaytay Highlands, the beaches of Batangas or the hot springs of Calamba and the greenery of

Complementary to the 2,961 registered business establishments to the city as of August 2005, a total of 31 commercial banks, 14 rittal banks and three government banks are scattered along the city's commercial districts.

Hospital facilities are just a ride away in Santa Rosa. which houses six secondary and tertiary hospitals, namely Southern Luzon Hospital and Medical Center, Saint James Hospital, Santa Rosa Community Hospital, Balibago Polychinic Hespital, Santa Rosa Hospital and Medical Center and the soon-to-rise New Sina: MUI Hospital

Santa Rosa, too, boasts of a competitive workforce. The combined strength of he city's educated workers and professionals number 100,000 and growing

Business-friendly city government

The City Government of Santa Rosa recognizes the crucial rate of the business community in promoting job creation, local economic stability and the delivery of basic services to the city's constituency Hence in Santa Rosa, the business sector is considered as a partner in local governance. The newly founded Santa Rosa City Business Club (SRCBC) enjoys the accommodation and coordination of the different branches of the city government. The SRCBC, together with the city government's Investment Promotions Group, regularly holds consultation and planning sessions as directing the thrust of the government and business see for towards holistic development

Low cost of doing business

But more than high-quality facilities and support services, Santa Rosa also boasts of tower costs of doing busipess and investment incentives, Incentives include income tax holidays, tax and duty exemptions and simplified import and export procedures, among others. Daily minimum wage is provincial and much lower than Metro Manila rates. The cost of land too, is much lower than other established cines. Power and communication costs are competitive and rates for office space and land lease are much lower than in Metro Manila. And these only mean more profitability for business.

Serga Rosa is indeed the next best stop for growing business and investment down south. Come, then, and grow with us.



Introducing the New Ford Escape NBX Limited Edition.

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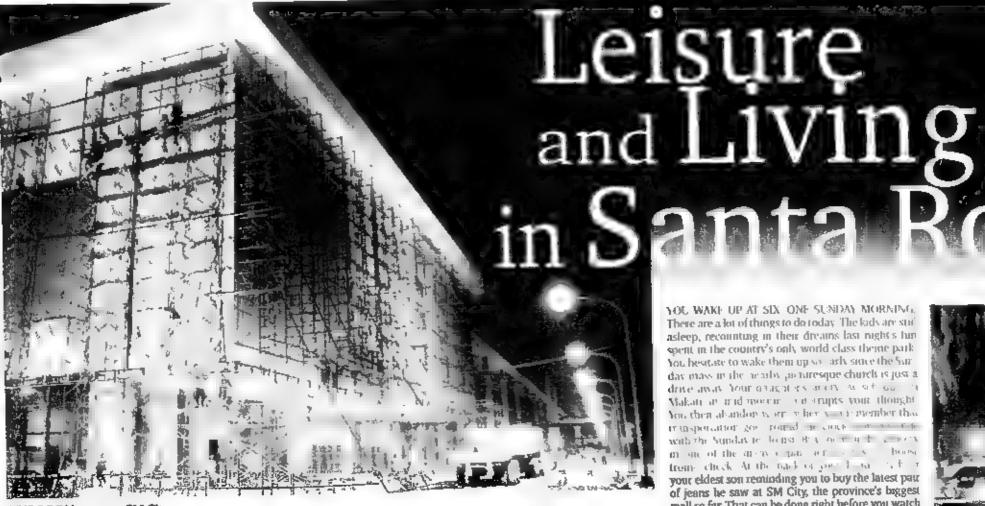








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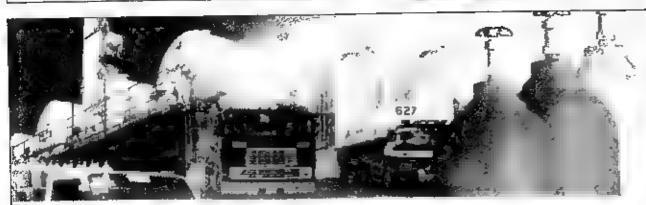


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YOU WAKE UP AT SEX ONE SUNDAY MORNING. There are a lot of things to do today. The lady are stall asleep, recounting in their dreams last night's him spent in the country's only world class theme park You best are to wake them up so arly since the Surday mass in the nearby parturesque church is just a drive away four daughters aren across on the Makan, as mid mose in a crupts your thought. You then abandon is orn as her a may remove that transposation for today as const. in as Cawith the Sunday to Journal Bray or mark a record in suc of the areas capacited as a boost from check At the mark of your I so the to

your eldest son reminding you to buy the latest pair of jeans he saw at SM City, the province's biggest mall so far. That can be done right before you watch the cinema with the family, you think. Suddenly you remember that today is your 10th anniversary with your spouse. You have planned for a romantic dinper in your favorite restaurant in Tagayray. Although you know it's a busy day, you give yourself a pat in the back. Because deep asside you know that living in the City of Santa Rosa is one of the best decisions your family has made

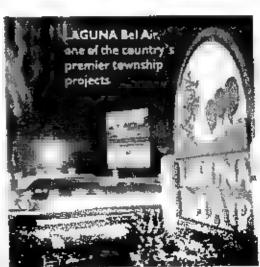
Santa Rosa is considered the tourist capital of South Luzon, having attracted more than 2 million tourists every year Located 40 km south of Manila through the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) and the Old Manula South Road, it is a strategic gateway to Metropolitan Manila as well as to the provinces of the Calabarzon sub-region. Its beoming population is but a testament that Sania Rosa is not just an employment destination but also the rising Mecca for urban leisure and living

Tourism Center

The leisure centerpiece of Santa Rosa is the famed Enchanted Kingdom, the only world-class theme park in the country which features spectacular tides and facilities for different ages, and attracts millions of foreign and local tourists a year.

Quality urban residentials

More than a hundred and twenty residential subdivisions dart Santa Rosa's landscape. The eastern part of the city is dominated by high-end residentia. areas along the Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Road. Leading the list is Laguna Bel-Air, dubbed as the most successful township project in the country. Besides enjoying a relatively cool climate, families living in Santa Rosa may easily access the highlands of Tagaytay, the warm beaches and dive spots of Batan-



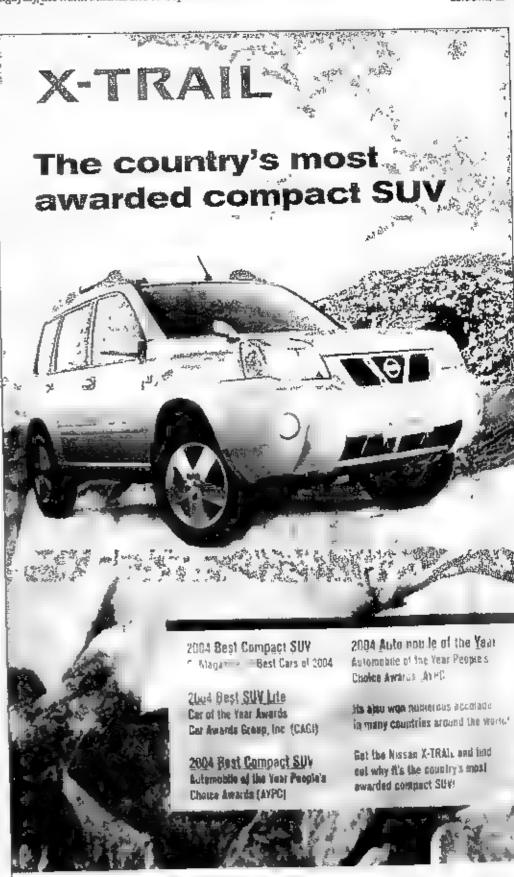
gas, the hot springs of Calamba, the greenery of Los Baños and the urban center that is Metro Manila

Shopping capital
Shopping mails and supermarkets are scattered along Santa Rosa's commercial districts, namely Robinsons Place Santa Rosa, Target Mall, Waltermart, Paseo de Santa Rosa, Country Market, South Supermarket, Rustan South Center and the soon-toopen SM City Santa Rosa which will be as big as SM

Nightlife
Nightlife is very lively with the numerous clubs and bars that can be found in the Santa Rosa Commercia. Complex and Paseo de Santa Rosa. If parrying is your cup of tea, then the nightlife of Santa Rosa is for you. Popular hang outs at the Commer-cial Complex are High Spirits Bar and Restaurant. Gimikeros, Laffters and Rafters Bars and Restaurants, while those that can be found at Paseo de Santa Rosa are Jasmine Tea House Bar & Restaurant, Fresh Bounty Bar & Restautant, Patio Verde Bar & Restaurant, Café Ambianti, Michael Rocks Restaurant, Sino Ber, King Cobra Bar & Grille, Tropical, Bar & Grill, El Simon Mexican Restaurant, Tasty Kreems Bar & Restaurant

Scores of restaurants serving local and foreign cuisine can also be found in the City. These include Lupan Restaurent, Pancake House, Men Men

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Leisure and Living in Santa Rosa



PASEO de Santa Rosa

Japanese Restaurant, Umenoya Japanese Restaurant, Poquito Mas, Café Breton, Mikkas Chicken Inasai, Max's Restaurant and the Twin Dragon

World-class hotels

Santa Rosa boasts of two business-class hotels, the El Cielito Inn and the Technopark Hotel. The El Cielito Inn is the first hotel in Santa Rosa that caters EL CIELITO inn, whenever you need a comfortable stopover to business needs. It is situated conveniently along the Santa Rosa-Tagaytay Road, just 1.5 km from the SLEX. The hotel mainly caters to expatriates from reading multinational corporations with its 52 rooms in deluxe, executive and suite categories.

The Technoperk Hotel, meanwhile, offers firstclass amenities in the Laguna business area. It has eight suites, two premiere units, 40 deluxe rooms, among its many facilities, all of which enjoy fulltime security. The Technopark Hotel is located within Greenfield Auto Park and is just 25 minutes away from Tagaytay.

Tee to pleasure To the golf enthusiast, there are the Santa Elena Golf & Country Club and the Country Club, site of the 2005 South East Asian Games. Santa Elena and the Country Club are world-class golf courses designed to test the abilities of the best golfers.

Heritage Sites Santa Rosa was established as early as 1752. Sites that survived the passing of time can still be found. Some of these are the Bantayan, old Spanish Houses, the Santa Rosa de Lima Parish and the Cuarrei de Santo Domingo

The Bantayan, also known as the Santa Rosa Arch, was constructed during the Spanish era and was refurbished in 1931, patterned after the Arch de Triumph of Paris. Located in front of the new City Hall, its modern design replaced the old guard tower used to watch against bandits during the Spanish colonial period.

Old Spanish houses can still be found lining the streets of Santa Rosa's poblacion. Within these old houses are a treasure move of artifacts and memoirs of Philippine history collected by the city's old fami-

The Santa Rosa de Lima Pansh, meanwhile, is one of the oldest religious structures from the Spanish period. The Baroque-style church was built by the Dominicans during 1792.

The Cuartel de Santo Domingo, on the other hand, is the ruln of an old Spanish fort that played a key role in turning the tide of the Philippine Revolution. It was recently declared as a national historical site by the National Historical Institute.

Bayaniban Foundation Parade Held every third week of January, the Bayanthan Poundation Parade is a street fest displaying the bayanthan or Filipino communal spurit of cooperation, which makes seemingly impossible fears realizable. The event highlights 18 colorfully decorated nipe huts hauled on foot and paraded throughout

How to get to Santa Rosa

Santa Rosa is easily accessible from nearly every-, where in Metro Manila and major destinations in the Calaberzon. It is only 30 minutes away from Munnalups, either via the SLEX or the Old South Highway; less than two hours from either Lucena City, Batangas City or Cavite City; and one and a half hours away from the Ninoy Aquino International

Mabuhay ang Lungsod ng SANTA ROSA sa Kanyang Ika-214 na Taon ng Pagkatatag

Hon, Jose B. Catindig, Jr.

Hon. Arlene Arcillas-Nazareno City Vice Mayer

City Councilors

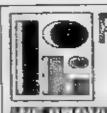
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Special PROJECT

Santa Rosa: A Brief History of Growth



recently
held its first
cityhood
anniversary
Luly 10,
2005,
celebrating
its history
as the 191st
city in the

Philippines

The Chy

SANTA ROSA CITY'S ECONOMY CONTINUES TO flourish as it is now dubbed as the Rising Investment Capital of South Luzon, one of the best alternative investment and leisure destinations in the country.

It was then known as Barrio Bukol, a territorial extension of Hacienda Biñan owned by the Dominican religious order in 1644. After a series of renaming, it became independent from Biñan and was established as the Minacipality of Sama Rosa in 1792. The town was named after its patron saint, Saint Rose of Lima, Peru whose baroque church was first constructed in 1796.

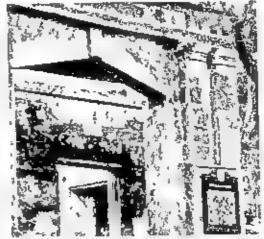
Rosemans participated with ferror in the 1896 Philippine Revolution and was even instrumental in the proclamation of Philippine Independence when the Municipal Government, represented by Francisco Arambulo, signed the Act of Independence on June 12, 1898.

On Pebruary 5, 1945, the Japanese abandoned the town when the local guerillas and the American Army entered the town. The town folks after World War II then depended on agriculture and small business for irvelihood.

Fourth to first, vice versa

Once an area devoted to agriculture, Santa Rosa became a rapidly developing site for business, industry and real estate. The town became a first-class municipality when its income reached P4 million in 1986. But in 1988, while its income remained steady, former President Corazon Aquino enacted Executive Order 249. This law revised the classification of municipalities and stipulated that a first class municipality should have an income of P15 million. So, in effect, Santa Rosa's classification reverted from first-class to fourth-class category.

Still, the town's meome gradually increased and Santa Rosa became a third-class annucipality in 1989 when it generated an income of P11 million.



CUARTEL de Sto. Domingo, sentinel of the past

The town climbed up the charts and became a first class municipality when it reached the P54-million income in 1993.

Calabarzon and industrialization

To advance regional development, the national government recognized 11 growth networks throughout the country, one of this was Calabarzon (Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon). It was conceptualized as a large-scale growth area adjacent to Merro Manila. Also designated as Region IV-A, Calabarzon has been transformed from an agrobased rural economy to a booming industrialized setting, as exemplified by the Santa Rosa experience

With the favorable opening of the South Luzon Expressway (SLEX) in the 1980s, many globally competitive locator companies penetrated the town. First to come in was Filipinas Synthetic Fiber Corp (Filsyn). Then Coca Cola Bottling Company moved in because of the town's strategic location and abundant water reservoir, which are assets to any industrial firm.

In 1989, the first undustrial estate in the Philippines, the Laguna Technopark Inc (LTT), opened its 387-bectare real estate development project to world-class locator companies such as Golay Buchel, Henkel, NEC, Honda, Matsushitz Electric and Trilux.

Along with the industrialization came the creation of jobs for its constituents, resulting to increased employment for the municipality.

Complementary to Santa Rosa's stature as an investment spot, the first ever theme park in the country, Euchanted Kingdom, opened its gates to local and foreign tourists in July 1995. It has been the best tourist stop in the country ever since

Regarded as the "Little Detroit of the Philippines" since 1992, Santa Rosa now houses six out of eight automotive manufacturers sixuated in the country, namely Toyota, Ford, Nissan, Honda, Star Motor



and Columbian Motors.

The automotive companies shifted its operation to Santa Rosa because of its lower congestion rate, sufficient facilities and strategic location to Manila and within Calabarzon.

Cityhood

Santa Rosa's quest for cityhood pushed through on July 10, 2004. The administration pushed for cityhood in order to enhance Santa Rosa's status as an investment and reisure destination. More investment means job opportunities. And this consequently increased the annual income and services rendered by the city government.

The city recently held its first cityhood anniversary July 10, 2005, celebrating its history as the 101st city in the Philippines.

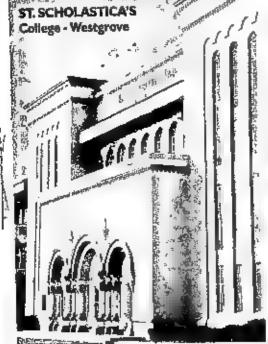
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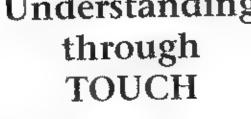
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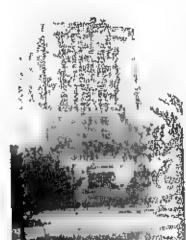


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Job Requirements:

- Graduate of any four-year course
- Excellent verbal and written English communication skills'
- Can perform multiple tasks accurately. and independently
- Strong interpersonal and customer service skilis
- Excellent listening skills
- Computer literate
- Willing to work in the night shift

Please submit your resume with a 2x2 picture at the 8F Philamlife Building 1207 Acacia Avenue, Madrigal Business Park, Alabang, Muntinlupa City or email us your resume at BPSI-APPLICANTS@AIG.COM.

For jobseekers, log on to: www.jobmarketonline.com

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ATTENTION: NURSES

JOB FAIR IN MANILA

DESTINATION: USA

MORLAND OVERSEAS MANPOWER SERVICES in partnership with our prestigious employer LUROSE Professional Recruitment & Staffing Agency, LLC (Accre No. 10075622) will be holding a job fair for ASANA NURSING SOLUTIONS at the MANILA DIAMOND HOTEL in Roxas Boulevard, Manila.

DATES & TIME: January 18 to January 20, 2006

Wednesday thru Friday, from 9.00 AM - 5 00 PM January 21, 2006, Saturday from 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM

Nursing Assignments will be in the United States. Two Years contracts is offered with an option to renew: Competitive salary extended with weekly pay Accessible Medical & Dental Insurance. Free first month travel to workplace and housing rent offered. Assistance in NCLEX licensure and a wide variety of benefits awaits youl

"If you are registered nurses with minimum two (2) years experience COME AND SEE US, AND MEET YOUR U.S. EMPLOYER"

Please bring your two (2) sets of resumé/pictures & all documents with original. Please report on January 16-17, 2006 for registration and preliminary interview at.

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Novaliches, Quezon City Zabarta Road, Brgy Kaligayahan Novaliches, Quezon Cily

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if this is you pis call 0917-9421263



HEAD OFFICE

TRUST INVESTMENT OFFICER (Additional personnel to handle growing business)

- Will be responsible for the day-to-day management of the Trust & investment Center's unit investment trust funds (UITFs) with particular focus on the fixed income fund
- Will provide strategic input on portfolio construction and develop acquisition and soit strategies for core

KEY RESPONSIBILITIES:

- Compose regular market reviews and outlook prices
- Provide analytical support in developing investment policies and guidelines (e.g. asset eliocation,
- active/passive mot and performance attribution) Analyze portfolio performance versus long term objectives. Perform attribution analysis by
- identifying key variances and determining casual factors. Work with marketing and sales channels on providing fund/market information to support the sales

and marketing effort e.g. overall investment style, key strategy points, etc.

- Graduate of business related degree from top university. CFA charterholder (or level 2 candidate) is highly desirable.
- 3-5 years relevant investment analysis, equity research, asset allocation, portfolio management or
- investment consulting experience Must possess excellent quantitative, writing and interpersonal skills
- Willingness to work in a cross-functional environment

ACCOUNTING ANALYSTS

- Will be responsible for the preparation of the Bank's financial/internal/external regulatory reports or to handle Treasury/Trust Accounting transactions
- Graduate of BS Accountancy, preferably a Certified Public Accountant
- Proficient in MS Office Applications
- Experience in Banking will be preferred

ACCOUNT ASSOCIATES (Kalookan)

- Will be responsible in assisting Account Officers in servicing of accounts and handling of the documentation of accounts
- Graduate of any 4 year business course Must possess good analytical skills; good communication skills, highly developed interpersonal akills.

and a high sense of responsibility

- ACCOUNT OFFICER Acquired Assets (Cebu) Will be responsible in the marketing and setting of all industrial and agricultural ROPOA assets
- Graduate of any 4 year business course, preferably Marketing
- Experience in conducting market/feasibility studies will be preferred

ANALYST/PROGRAMMER

- Will be responsible in translating system specifications into technical specifications & writing program codes
- Graduate of BS Computer Science or any IT related course

Experience in Banking will be preferred

INFORMATION SYSTEM AUDITOR

- Will be responsible for the testing and audit of existing and new IT systems of the Bank
- Graduate of BS Computer Science
- Experience in Audit and Information Technology will be an advantage

NETWORKENGINEER

- Will be responsible for network administration, network optimization, planning, design, and evaluation. Will also handle the LANAWAN administration, Internet/Intranet/remole access operations.
- Graduate of BS ECE or BS Computer Engineering
- Experience in LAN/WAN intermetworking/administration, network planning and performance management for at least 3 years will be an advantage

QUALITY ASSURANCE OFFICER

- Will be responsible in evaluating branches to ensure adherence to policies and procedures and to ensure standard implementation of procedures
- Graduate of any 4 year business related course, preferably BS Accountancy

Experience in a similar function will be preferred.

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TELECOM ENGINEER

- Graduate of BS ECE
- Experience in PABX/KTS & line installation & administration for at least 2 years, proficient in SCS, wire communication & transmission and LAN/WAN operations will be preferred

METRO MANILA BRANCHES AND NEW BRANCHES (BACLARAN, JUAN LUNA-DIVISORIA AND SAN PEDRO-LAGUNA)

BRANCH CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATE

- Will be responsible in client/account servicing in the branch
- Graduate of any 4 year business course

BRANCH SALES ASSOCIATE

- Will be responsible for handling and processing account opening, and other bank products
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Experience in Bank Branch Operations for at least 1 year will be preferred BRANCH SALES OFFICER

- Will be responsible in account solicitation for the branch and assisting in the servicing and maintenance of existing account holders
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Experience in a Sales/Marketing function in a bank or any financial institution for at least 2 years will be preferred **BRANCH SALES SPECIALISTS**

- This is an entry position eventually leading to Sales Officership. Qualified candidates will undergo classroom and on the job training involving field sales calls, sales planning, prospecting, appointment getting and presentation. Candidates are expected to attain targets for number of sales calls, accounts opened and volume of funds generated.
- Graduate of any 4 year course with strong inclination and high aptitude for sales BRANCH SERVICE HEAD
- Will be responsible for the over-all Branch Operations
- Graduate of any 4 year business course
- Experience as Branch Operations Officer or have handled both Branch Cashier and Branch Accountant positions in any Commercial/Universal Bank for at least 2 years will be preferred

BRANCHRELATIONSHIP OFFICER Will be responsible in formulating plans and strategies to expand relationships within the bank's target

- market and for implementing of strategies for the branch target marketing in accordance with the
- Experience in a sales function gained from a bank or other financial institutions for at least 2 years will be preferred

Be a part of a company with GLobal Standards, currently being benchmarked in Service & Competence.

interested perties are requested to send their comprehensive resumés to any of the addresses below with a 2x2 photo attached.

> (POSITION APPLIED FOR) International Exchange Bank Recruitment & Placement Sector 4/F iBank Exchange Building, 142 Amorsolo St. Legaspi Village, Maksti City

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DIRECTOR FOR SALES AND MARKETING Oversees and directs all aspects of the hotel's sales and marketing operations including sales, reservation, sales solicitation, public relations and advertising activities. Delines and applies policies armed at obtaining the highest possible RevPAR and yield for the hotel. Advises and assist F&B. Rooms, and other departments in

majurtiizing revenue

in order to carry out the job effectively we are looking for candidates with the following strike, qualities and atti-butes

- . Five (5) Years experience in Five star Hotels
- · Preferably a graduate of Bachelor of Science in Hotel and Restaurant Management or a Business Management
- . Can communicate clearly, concrety and confidently both verbal and written with a wide range of people both inside and outside the hotel · Planuning Skills Looks sheed, makes accurate
- forecast and identifies future trends and sets requistic forecast. · Commercial Awareness Place high important on achieving financial performance tergets, enterprenuenal,

continuelly spots apportunities to increase revenue.

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- · People Management Maintains staff morale and a departer on attention to develop ment of stills. many and their rate of it magnine shirtly

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> THE HRD MANAGER Hilligh Cebu Resort & Spa Punte Engaño, Lapu Lapu City, 6015 Cabu Tel: (032) 492 7777 Email für cabur@hilton com

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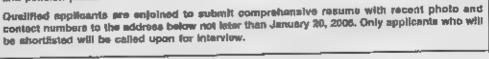
THE WORLD BANK Requires a TEAM ASSISTANT

The World Bank Office Mantie (WBOM) has a vacancy for top caliber Team Assistant to provide efficient and high-quality secretarial and administrative support to managers. This position will be for a two-year term appointment, subject to one-year probationary period, with possibility of ranswall Duties and responsibilities include, but are not limited to:

- Drafts routine correspondence and proof-read documents using proper grammar, punctuation
- Edits documents based on comments provided by the learn members;
 Uses word processing or desidop publishing sidile to produce complex text, figures, graphs, etc according to standard Bank formals and business procedures;
- Take down minutes of the non-technical discussions/meetings; Coordinates and updates team and mission schedules taking priorities and changes into account, monitors changes, and inform relevant parties accordingly
- 4 Solves non-routine problems (a.g. responds to requests requiring file search and basic reserch through Intranetor Internet, Bank manuals);
- Assists in the preparation and logistical planning of various events, e.g., missions, conferences, workshops, etc.
- Tracks key milestones and alerts Task Team Leaders on the tasks' timelines, daliverables. budget status, etc., Coordinates with relevant staff, and provides assistance and/or information on project related
- matters as requested; Maintains and regularly updates distribution lists, contact lists of project counterparts, etc.
 Ensures timely distribution of documents based on Bank procedures:
- Keeps track of paper flow and maintains up to dete unit and project files (both paper and
- Participates in selected mission activities such as meetings and field work. Responds effectively and in a timely manner to information requests from the team, other Bank
- staff external clients and partners; e Provides back-up support to other ACS staff in other units.

Selection criteria:

- College degree in any relevant field;
 Excellent interpersonal skills, ability to establish and maintain excellent work relations in a team environment: e High degree of initiative, fieldbilly and resourcefulness with a drive for afficiency and results;
- Excellent organizational sidils, ability to prioritize assignment and work effectively under pressure with minimum supervision; Excellent written and vebal communication skills in English and Flipino;
- High level of proficiency in Microsoft Office (Word, Excel, Powerpoint and Database Program);
 Thorough working knowledge of general office procedures, machines and equipment; and
 Minimum 5 years experience in secretarial and administrative work, preferably with high
- The World Bank offers a competitive package based on the local market, and attractive medical and pension plans.





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in international school, to oversee and help with homework. Mainly Math, Science and English, Ideally 4:00-5:30 Mon-Thu in Dasmanñas Village, Student can also visit tutor's place. Send qualifications, bro-data and hourly rate to P.O. Box 8116, Makati City 1222.

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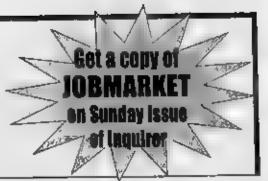
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 Excellent oral & written English communication skills Preferably graduate of any 4-year or 2-year course *Customer-oriented, highly motivated Comfortable using online and other research tools Willing to work on a shifting/night schedule .Willing to work full-time

Call center experience an advantage

Male/female, 19-45 years old

CUSTOMER MASTER DATA ANALYST

•2-3 years experience of working in a customer facing role Experience of SAP is an advantage, especially creating customer master data records Good problem solving, interpersonal and analytical skills Demonstrated knowledge of systems (i.e. ERP systems and applications)

 Knowledge of tax procedures, policies, and processes Knowledge of Customer Master Data procedures, policies, and processes Knowledge of Customer Data Hierarchy Structure Knowledge of SOX requirements

Strong Excel & Access skills

Understanding of Customer Master Data KPI's and Service Level targets

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- Female with pleasing personality With or without sales experience
- 23+ years of age
- Some engineering background a plus

You must be

- Able to develop new clients
- Able to improve on the sales performance of existing clients
- Able to work under pressure Able to work with minimal supervision
- Willing to work overtime to meet client deadlines
- Willing to work/meet with clients on iob sites
- · Willing to travel nationwide

If you are that person, please small resumé to argylecamacho@gmall.com or argylecamacho@yahoo.com or mail It to 950 Espereta St., Sta. Cruz, Manila

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 - Femiliar with site supervision, cost
- estimation and budgeting Willing to be sestimed in provincial projects Knowledge in using MS Office
- Applications, Project

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- Applications

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For CALL CENTER:

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE

At least 2 years of coilege

TELESALES REPRESENTATIVE

Preferably a graduate of any computer-related furnitions

MULTI-LINGUAL CUSTOMER SERVICES

Fluent In Page 19

MULTI-LINGUAL CUSTOMER SET TO REP

/ Fluent in English and in any of April Cooling languages

- Spanish, Nihonest Audaria

FINANCE MANAGER

✓ CPA; at least 7 years work-related experience

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS MANAGER

√ At least 5 years work experience in compensation and benefits

TRAINING SUPERVISOR

Must have training work experience in a call center environment

TELEPHONY ADMINISTRATOR ✓ Must have 3 years voice communications experience in a call

SYSTEMS ADMINISTRATOR

✓ At least 2 years experience in a computer support role; A+ or MCP Certification

NETWORK ADMINISTRATOR « Enowledgable on networking particularly on Cloco Network)

equipment

HR ASSISTANT √ Psychology or Behavioral Science Graduate



oenter; knowledgable in maintaining internal telescome equipment. Monday to Friday 8:00 am to 3:00 pm PLDT Building, Boni Avenue, Mandaluyong City

your desired position.)

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- Graduate of Fine Arts (Advertising) or Marketing
- Efficient in MS PowerPoint, CorelDraw and PhotoShop.
- Experienced in formulating and implementing Marketing Program, Organizing product presentations. Interested Applicants may personally submit

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years at local four (4) years in Training, two years of which is in

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... STAND-OUT?

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CALL CENTER AGENTS

At least second year college / graduate of any course; eighteen (18) yearsold and above; ability to effectively communicate in English; willing to work in various shifts including graveyard; typing speed (rotoimum 25-ore)

TRAINERS.

(Technical account)

Excellent presentation skills; strong technical background is a must; call: center experience is a plus; team-oriented and able to work in a fast-paced environment/

LOG-IN ADMINISTRATOR (WFM)

Six (6) months of Call Center Operations or Workforce experience a must; must have excellent customer service skills; must be computer literate; ability to use E-mail, extended e-mail functions, word processing and apreadsheets

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Highly knowledgeable in Microsoft SQLServer, Crystal reports, MySQL, Visual Basic, Linux, Apache and Scripting languages; experienced in ... programming user interfaces and database processing under Web and Client Server environment 👚

communication skills and knowledge in Microsoft Office and Internet Explorer

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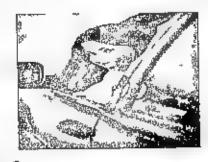




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Excellent interpersonal, presentation & communication skills Can effectively execute various marketing & sales strategies

as Training Officer / Sales Trainor

Male / Female 28 to 35 years old Graduale of Behavioral Science, Education or Marketing With at least 2 years experience in conducting sales training modules: preferably in the real estate industry

Highly resourceful and creative

With excellent oral and written communication skills

as Individual & Corporate Brokers .

email your credenilals with 2x2 photo to. ktulio@greentcon net or chinalex@gmail.com only shortisted candidates will be contacted.



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Customer Service Representatives

> Will mainly interact with the frequent stayer program members of InterContinental Hotels Group from around the

☑ Experience/aducation in the hospitality industry an advantage

.nnate ability to ask questions to Identify callers

We are also looking for:

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> Will mainly interact with customers for reservations and be the initial point of contact for general reservations inquiries adhering to the reservation and rate strategy procedures of InterContinental Hotels Group from around the globe.

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☑ Assertive, analytical and

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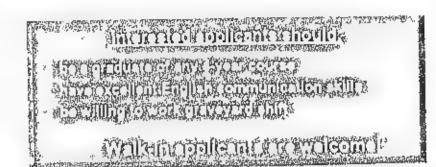
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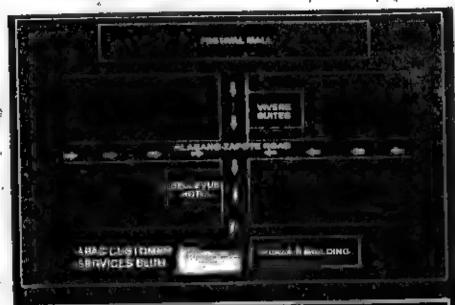
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Asia United Bank

We are looking for highly motivated, competent and dynamic pareons to join our team and deliver superior banking services:

HEAD - SPECIALIZED LENDING

Spearheads specialized landing projects of the bank
Evaluates credit and project investment worthiness of prospective accounts
Provides project finance/term financing/recommendations to clients and key company officials Listee with various government agencies (i.e. DBP, SSS Landbank) involved in special seroing programs to lectifiate release of funds to utilimate borrowers and investors

With at least 5 years experience in specialized lending, bank relationship menagement, credit, structured leans, and project finance

REMITTANCE MARKETING OFFICERS

He / she will be responsible for the overall introduction, marketing and sales promotion of the Bank's remittance program to the extesting and prospective loreign correspondents/lie-ups worldwide ident candidates are Business-Managament graduates with at least three (3) years of experience in the remiliance business of a bank ident candidates are Business-Managament graduates with at least three (3) years of experience in the remiliance business of a bank Must have full knowledge of remiliance operations, processes, regulations and product features. Selling and supervisory skills. Excellent interpersonal skills. Computer thereta.

Open to be assigned in other countries (Kuwait, UAE, Saudi Arebia, USA and Milen, Italy)

ACCOUNT OFFICERS

He / she will be responsible in account solicitation and selling of retail consumer finance products ideal candidates are Business/Management graduates with at least three (3) years experience of selling consumer related products

Setting and supervisory skills. Highly proficient in oral and written communication. Computer therate

IT AUDITOR

Responsible for reviewing internet controls and security time of all hardware, application and operating systems of the information Conducts review of new systems developed for the bank and adming applications/systems to ensure data integrity, access control,

general system control and maintenance

Graduate of Accounting or any business releted course. Preferably a ticensed CPA With at least three (3) years experience in FT Audit Full knowledge of sudit techniques and principles, internal controls, branch operations and internal banking systems

FIELD SALES OFFICERS

Responsible for generating CASA deposits for the bank and cross-selling other products and services of the bank Acquires new accounts, maintains and despens existing relationships with clients, and cross-sells other AUB products and services.

TRADE MULTIPROCESSOR

With all least 2 years related sales experience and with proven track record in sales

Primarity responsible for the processing of various documents needed for the Irade products and services offered by the bank Processes payment of final duties and ensures that these are remitted to the proper sultorities. Ensures that bank guarantees are cancelled and surrendered to the shipping comparises and that the reversels and updates are accomplished to reflect such cancellation. With at least two to them (2.3) years accordance to integrations of a comparison of a comparison.

With at least two to three (2-3) years experience in international operations of a commercial bank

Working knowledge of trade transactions, BSP rulings, UCP 500 and JRR

MARKETING ASSISTANTS / OFFICERS Qualified candidates will provide administrative support to Account Officers. He/ she will assist in servicing and maintenance of

Must be a graduate of a four year business course

Excellent customer service orientation. Good verbal/written communication stills. Computer illerate

SERVICE MANAGERS to be assigned at branches in Marilla and south of Manila

Exercises supervision over tellers and new accounts personnel

Acts as primary pustoclen of cash and other accountable flems

Acts as pranty business to the test of the Branch operate profits by within delined largets Solicits accounte/cross-sells benk products and services

Graduate of any four year business course. With at least 2-8 years work experience

BANK TELLERS AND NEW ACCOUNTS ASSOCIATES

to be assigned at branches in Manila and south of Manila

Handles over the counter transactions, account opening and maintenance and contributes to the echievement of branch goals

Graduate of any four year business course With previous experience as letter or sales associate is an advantage

Ability to speak Chinese Language, also an advantage

Qualified candidates may personally apply from Monday to Friday, 9:30 am to 5:30 pm or mail/armail comprehensive resums and 2x2 photo to. Asia United Bank

www.aub.com.ph Human Resources Management Division 38/F Antal Global Corporate Center Julia Vergas Avenus, Ortigas, Pasig City humanresources@aslaunited.com.ph:

Valueline Systems and Solutions Corp. is in urgent need of highly motivated, dynamic, and proficient personnel with the ff qualifications:

Marketing Officer

- Graduate of Marketing or related courses. With experience in Marketing and Handling & Coordinating Events preferably in IT-related companies.
- Results-oriented, Responsible, can work independently within the company's policy, last learner, willing to grow with the company and
- Creative, Imaginetive, Team player, good listener and highly-motivated With experience in writing press releases and
- brochures Coordinating flaising with IT principals.
- Computer Literate, with skills in multi-media
- Excellent written & oral communication skills.

Sales/Channels Representatives Telemarketers Sales Assistant

- Seiling Experience preferred. Hardworking with drive to succeed in Sales
- Has the ability to excel in structured anvironment with proven selling system
- Can work with minimum supervision Can deal with people of all levels
- Willing to work long hours.
- Has excellent grat and written communication sk lis Customer oriented, Team Player, Pro-Active
- attitude with sense of urgency

Apply in Person or send your resumé via email to: hr@valueline.com.ph Or send them thru snail mail

② 2nd Fir., J&L Building, #23 Matalino Street, Central District, Diliman, Quezon City. Tel Nos. (02) 925-22-23/925-76-23/925-21-77

A start up hotel located on Rizal Screet, Dagupan City is in search of highly qualified applicants to fill in the following positions.

Lenox Notel

HEAD CHEF

- 28 to 35 years old, college graduate Willing to be based in Pangasman
- With at least five years experience in a hotel as a Sous Chef or Chef
- Culmary skills/specializes in Western or European Cuesne
- Expertise includes: menu planning, food costing, inventory control, staff training, food safety & sanitation
- Strong leadership skills

FOOD & BEVERAGE SUPERVISOR (Male/Female)

- 29 to 35 years old, college graduate
- Willing to be based in Pangasman With a manimum of three years supervisory experience in the F&B operations of a hotel and/or a Chinese restaurant
- With good English communication skills
- With strong leadership skills
- Skills in skirting, flower arranging, stage decorating, & fruit carvings. Has experience in handling Chinese laureate & Western banquet SETVICE

ASSISTANT CHEF Chinese cuisine Cantonese Style (Male)

- 25 to 35 years old, onlege graduate
- Willing to be based in Pangasinan With a minumum of five years experience as Assistant Chef or cook 2
- in a Chinese restaurant Strong featership skills & can handle Chinese laureate & hanquet
- Knowledgeable in menu planning, food costing, inventory control, food safety & sanitation

Interested applicants should send their resumé through mail or e-mail on or

Lenux Fluiel

lenoxhotel@pkltdsi.nct

Itizal Street, Dagupan City 075-5158889/075-5281264/075-5167094

075-5-58522

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As part of our 2006 expansion we are in immediate need of aggressive dynamic individuals with the following qualifications for the following position

SALES ENGINEER - Male

- Four (4) yr. College graduate of Mechanical, Electrical or Industrial Engineering course,
- Presentable, hardworking and possessing a strong desire to succeed in the field of selling or related marketing, frequent traveling, meeting and winning people, result-oriented; with a good track record, expanding accounts and capable of making ellective and required sales target,
- Must have good English and verbal communication skills & computer literate in MS Office
- Must possess a valid driver's license;

For the right person this position has potential for future growth.

- To the qualified applicants, we offer the following: Competitive Salary, Allowance, Commission for Sales
- Local and international Training
- Career Growth

interested applicants are requested to send or hand-carry their resume, detailed work experience, latest ID photo, school and employment credenlials at:

> Unit 2 Southway Building Yakai corner Mayapis Street

area and the second of the sec

3M PHILIPPINES, INC. is a subsidiary of a world-class organization with headquarters in SL Paul. Minneagla JSA. Throughout the world, 3M leads in Innovation and Quality and is consistently voted as one of America's most admired corporations for many years now

Our search for world-class team players continues:

SR. SALES SPECIALIST

Electronic Products Olvision (Code: SRSS-EP00106) The successful candidate will be responsible for achieving sales objectives and developing new business

in the assigned markets of Electronic Products Division.

→ Graduate of Electronics and Communications Engineering (ECE) or related fields

At least 3 years experience sailing to semiconductor manufacturing market

Excellent Verbal, Writter Communication and Presentation Skills

 Strong Interpersonal Skills Computer proficient (i.e. MS Word, Excel and PowerPoint, Sales Statistics) SR. MARKETING SPECIALIST

Communications Market Division (Code: SRMS-CMD0106) Responsible for developing, driving, and monitoring the successful implementation of marketing plans for Communications Markets Division.

Graduate of EE, ECE, Computer Engineering, Computer Science or MIS, MBA degree an advantage

- in-depth experience in Telecommunications and Information Technology industries, specifically handling copper, fiber optics, wireless and OEM products
- Excellent Verbal, Written Communication and Presentation Skills Good Business Acumen

caratulty designed to meet the employees' needs as well as their dependents.

Computer proficiency (MS Excel, MS PowerPoint and MS Word)

3M Philippines' compensation and benefits program is one of the best in the industry and have been

We are inviting potential candidates especially to those with background in Sales, Marketing, Finance, Customs Care, Logistics and Information Technology who are tooking for excellent apportunities for career growth and training to sand their resumes for pooling purposes.

e-mail: ph-3mhr@mmm.com

3M Philippines, Inc. 18th Floor Equilable-PCI Tower II, Makati Ave., Makati City Attn. Human Resources Department (Code:

Visit us at http://www.3m.com/ph 3M Human Resources Principles We respect the dignity and worth of all individuals, we encourage the initiative of each

employee, challenge individual capabilities and provide equal opportunity for



www.jumboship.nl

25865-1 is best described as a heavy lift transport and engineering company. As managers of a fleet of purpose-built heavy lift ships, we combine 30 years of sea transport experience with expertise in pre- and on-carriage of industrial cargo.

For our J-class vessels we are presently in need for Electrical Technicians that meet the following qualifications

Licensed Electrical Engrior Electronics Engr (ECE) Experience as an Electro-automation technician (electrical and electronics combined)

Must have knowledge in troubleshooting of PLC / electronics automation and Industria, motor starter (Multi speed motor and frequency speed motor controller)

Computer literate specially with files / directory management and knowledge of logic operators (AND, NAND, OR, NOR, NOT etc...)

With relevant work experience of at least two years Capable of working without supervision Familiarity with calibration of telemeters like temperature, pressure and

level transmitters (4...20 mA, 0 20 mA and 0-10V) is a pre-

You first will be placed on board under supervision of an experienced Electrical Technician to get acquainted with the work on board until you are considered to be qualified to work independently

Furthermore JUMBO can always use experienced and independent working 2nd and 3rd Engineers, young, fit and ambitious A/B's, flexible, inventive Cooks and skilled Weiders. \$8550, when you have the above qualifications and you are willing to learn and invest time

and effort in your own future, please come in person or sand your resume at: SEALANES MARINE SERVICES, INC. Pryce Center 8/F

1179 Chino Roces Ave. cor Bagtikan St Makati City e-mail; sms@mits-dcf.com.ph

Deadline of submission: January 18, 2006



ACCOUNT EXECUTIVES/SPECIALISTS **Franketing and Business Development**

Supering the pathers for new accounts.

Supering the desire of pathers for new aperined safety argent Account Management

PE concepnatization and production of colleterals such as amount reports, brockwists, letc. 22 exposations of key disposate committeestand colleteral. Et conclusions and history between citoria and history between citoria and control to the contr

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Checkede of Bachelor of the Arts
 A strong communical and corporate design

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Hequisites for AE

20 top 20% of graduating stees of the B. universities.

- University of the Philippines. - De la Sale Herentsty

Alered de Mando University - University of Santo Goods (2) Subseq command of Westers and spokes in rights (2) Excellent marketing and presentation stalls (2) Executly to work this flast partial emissioners (2) Good sollowire kinds (either solls a) What, for excellent marketing sollowing sollowing subsequents graphs).
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Successful carefulates will be offered attractive remarration package. Phoso forward resume with a non-transactive photograph to Xprass Media Philippines, Inc. for Sure, of San Majori Assess Conjus Contex Paste Chr Email surhous curves species on 19

URGENT HIRING!!!

A JS based company, specializing in creative services is tooking to fill the following positions:

GRAPHIC ARTISTS

Looking for highly creative self-starters. that can work on a variety of subjects in a fest-paced environment Well-versed in Adobe Photoshop, illustrator, Corel and Freehand

Can fluently converse in English and participate in brainstorming sessions with client At least 1 year experience in lay-outing of different

types of colleterate and print materials Graduate of Fine Arts or related courses.

Regulres innovative individuals that can work with minimum adpervision. Flexible with diverse products to work with in fast moving set-up. Above average skills in Adobe Photoshop, Illustrator, Dreamweaver, Flash, HTML and JAVA Script Encoding

WEB DESIGNERS

ABOVE AVERAGE COMPENSATION AWAITS 🖑 QUALIFIED APPLICANTS. 4 14 3 E-MAIL YOUR RESUME TO nins@laurenslive.com

before January 23, 2006. E-mail address Man, address Contact Nos.

Sen Antonio Village, Mekati City



If U are people-oriented, then we need U. Double or triple your score, if U have hotel experience or if U are an HRM graduate Who knows.

U may just complete the puzzle.

Positions that score: -Front Office Manager -F&B Supervisor -HR Assistant Purchasing Associate -Graphic Designer

-Guest Services Associate (for Discovery Country Suites Tagaytay)

For further details and online applications, please visit www.discoverysuites.com





One Discovery of Day

Discovery Suites Discovery Country Suites Tagaytay Discovery Shores Boracay, Opening 2006

CON CROWN SYSTEMS

NIERMATIONAL INC We are a provide of it driven Project Management Systems and on represent PRIMAVERA SYSTEMS of USA. We need our cleants successfully manage their businesses by implementing project management systems. We are looking for competitud and paragraphs.

individue's for the following positions:

Account Manager (1)
Former all reast 25 years of age
Graduate of any 4 years course
Computer seems furming with popular application software
Good in oral and wintern communication. Willing to work exertime Whiting to take on field work

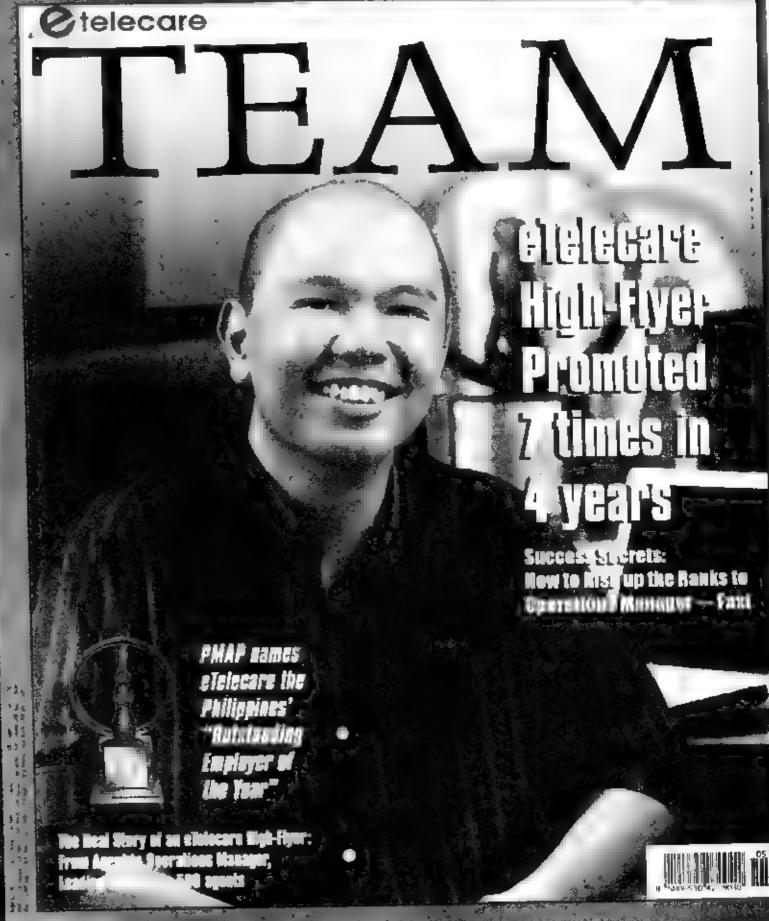
Will přepaská 6 odlecké personálity Providus sales ou govence a plus bul not required

Sales Assistant (1)

Fernala et ligas: 25 years of ego Graduate of any 4 year course Constitute de sale sonilla with popular application softwares Good in onal and winden continuations Williams to work eventime.

Competitive compensation package inclusive of basic salary allowance. Incomines and commissions for solds positions interested parties are inquisated to send their jesumes with phot

Crown Systems International, Inc. July 101 - 107 Fixon Harrysa Towar ir 98 V.A. Rullino Yomer box. Valero Streets Salcedo Village. 1227 Mokali City са отначај адаксоле: спомпауж сот



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- Technical Support Representatives
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- Applications Developers
- IT Project Leaders
- Management Recrustment Coordinator
- Customer Service & Financial Associates
- Quality Assurance Associates (Spanish)
- Senior Applications Developers
- Corporate Asset Management Specialist



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ide musika i minaya **ACCOUNT** MANAGER (SALES)

Will perform \$2los related work including acquisition and maintenance of clients 21 to 27 yrs old College graduate Call Lalaine at B137616 or 8158744 for details

WANTED

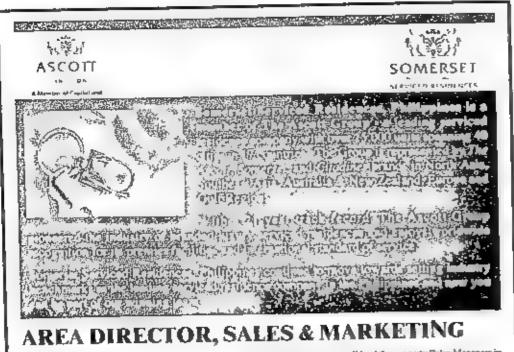
Sales Representatives for Plastic Bugs & Pouches

Apply at: #9 Gen Malvar St Bagong Barrio, Caloocan City

MACHINE SHOP MANAGER, SUPERVISOR Lie NE (Egrad w/exp loadership skills. Known ISO 55 GMP MISON ALAGGAD # 0917-8388472 oz 3710772 SECRETARY , BK KPR Соводе рава, кАЕ расов соттемпроводе & сотрыйе

SHIPS WHOM IN (mentory payrox her 09: 7-8388477 or 371077

Read R every Sunday with the Philippine Cody Lequices.



As the head of the Sales Train of Someram Serviced Residences, Philippines you will lead the property Sales Managers in princing strategic nationable, in drive business results for our three properties. You will spendedd Implementation of marketing compargue designed to improve our chiest base, signify and pursue dew business channels and brand

- development avenues, and maximize yield.
 - Minumum of 5 years experience as a Director of Sales in a highly regarded Serviced Revelopes and I or Hend, or
 - Degree in Bussness Management, I forch and Restaurant Management, Tourists from a reputable university face) lent interpersonal and communications shifts I excellent spotter and written English
 - lassympto, resourceful and profesent at Macrosoft Office gragmans Presentable, assertive, driven and can thrive in a very competitive and results-driven cavirouscul-

If you want to experience a world of opportunities and nurture a career in our growing laternational mercloed residence company, please send your comprehensive resums and 2 x 2 prefere at confidence to:

> MARAGER, HUMAN RESOURCE SOMERSET RELEBANGAS, MARATI No 104 Againte Street, Laguspi Village, Modual City Hallipphee 1229 Or send uplies to enquiry manifest he ascolicum

Selected candidates shall be notified.



JARDINE TECHNICAL SERVICES (JTS)

JTS is part of the highly respected Jardine Engineering Group providing a range of Heating, Ventitation and Air Conditioning (HVAC) plus related equipment maintenance. installation and engineering services to major local and multinational companies

Fast establishing itself as the market leader with an enviable reputation for quality and service. JTS is embarking on a major expansion program and now requires

TECHNICAL SERVICES MANAGER

The Technical Services Manager will head the 200 plus strong Operations Group providing Maintenance and Repair services to high profile clients

Applicants must have

- Mechanical, Electrical or Management Engineering qualifications
- Management experience in a large manufacturing or maintenance operation Knowledge of Work Estimate and Contract Preparation and Administration
- Knowledge of Quality Maintenance Programs such as TPM / RCM
- Experience in working with HVAC, stitities or related equipment

This is a senior career position with a respected multinational. The opportunities for structured training and advancement are excellent. Regular performance reviews feedback and coaching are given to support employee development.

Financial and benefit packages are very competitive

Please send your resume (including current salary details) by post, email or fax to

Jardine Davies 222 Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue Ensail. HRD@idigroup.com / Fax No. 844-7022

Only applicants selected for interview will be contacted

great talent in drawing i sketching proficient with ADOBE PHOTOSHOP a degree in Advertising is on advantage tresh graduates are encouraged to apply Visit os at

2nd Floor, Bonifacio Stopover Piaza Fort Bonifacio Global City (beside Shell Gasoline Station, above Starbucks)

(02) 816-7683 to 84 9:00 am - 6:00 pm look for Brian Res or email your resume and sample works at briangigw-architects.com



Acer, one of the top and leading PC vendor in the Philippines is inviting experienced, people-oriented and top caliber professional to fill in the position of

PRODUCT SPECIALIST

male/female, with at least 2-3 years experience in doing pre-sales activities, technical support and product training for Server and Desktop PC.

CHANNEL ACCOUNT EXECUTIVE

- with excellent knowledge and experience in computer retai business.
- at least 2 to 3 years IT-related work experience in the same capacity

we are looking for applicants who are: graduates from reputable universities

- flexible, pro-active, goal-oriented, highly motivated
- excerent communication skills

Interested applicants must submit their resumé with recent 2x2 colored to photo not later than January 22, 2006 at the following address:

> Acer Philippines, Inc. Human Resource Department

Unit 3401 34th PBCom Tower 6795 Ayala Avenue, cor. Herrera St., 1226 Makeli City or e-mail: cecilie mauri@acer.com.ph ...

Retail Operators Inc. SALES ASSOCIATES/STORE SUPERVISOR

Graduate of business related course from a seputable university or college

Relevant work experience gained from a retail environment is an advantage. Has good command of oral and written English.

Driven, cherming, patient and has pleasing personality

At least 22-29 years old

CUSTOMER SERVICE ASSOCIATE Qualifications:

Excellent interpersonal and communication sidile

Sirong customer service orientation Preferably with one year equationce in customer service orientation guined from a retail or service environment.
Must be proficient in the use of computers and verious applications.

Must be fluent in the English language both oral and written Has pleasing personality

At least 25-29 years old

AECOUNTING ASSUCIATE

Graduate of BS Accountancy course from a reputable university or college

Can ably deal with top level officers of the company Knowledgeable of all accounting procedures and system

Willing to work long hours specially during summer and peak essents has excellent computer skills in excel Personable and has good command of the English language

UPERATIONS ASSOCIATE

- Graduate of menagement related course from a reputable university or college
- Can ably deal with top level officers of the company
- Relevant Inventory work experience is an advantage has excellent computer skills in excel Personable and has good command of the English language
- Preferably male
- Al least 22-29 years old

IT OF TICES

- Graduate of iT-related course from a reputable university or college
- Experience on both Windows and LINEX operating syste Expense with medium-to-large scale development projects Has good commend of oral and written English
- At least 3-5 working years experience in information technology
- Ability to work with other IT professionels
- At least 24-27 years old

Interested Applicants may drop their comprehensive resums with recent photo to the address below or may come personally on Moo-Fri 1PM-SPM st:

Human Resources Department Unit 1504 15/F Orient Square Bidg

F. Ortiges Jr. (Formerly Emerald Ave.) Ortigas Center Pasig City

Or email: rol.hr@esstern.com.ph Contact Person: Ms. Shane Terrayo

Attitude Companies: Transport MORELLATO

Oxfam GB's purpose is to work with others to find lasting solutions to poverty and suffering

Oxfam Great Britain's Philippine Programme is. offering an employment opportunity for

Logistician

Within the context of Oxfam's development philosophy and its programme in the Philippines, to provide logistics support for Oxfam programmes in the Philippines. Key Responsibilities:

- To organize all logistics processes, including purchasing, warehousing, communications and transport, as well as the related administrative procedures, for Oxfam operations. To supervise and support logistics personnel working for Oxfam
- To maintain logistic contracts and outsourcing capabilities for the humanitarian programma
- To implement and monitor logistics systems, in accordance with Oxfam GB policies and procedures
- To establish and maintain good contacts with suppliers, government offices, UN agencies and other NGOs with regards to logistical
- matters To report monthly on all logistical activities to the Line Manager
- To assist the Humanitarian Programme Coordinator with logistics
- advice during the drawig up of new project proposals. To maintain a preparedness capacity for future emergency operations

Key competancies

- Diplomacy, lact and negotiating skills
 - Team working skills
- Flexibility under pressure and in response to changing needs Attention to detail and excellent numeric skills
- Good experience in purchasing, warehousing, vehicle management
- and administration
- Practical experience in working HF and VHF radios Demonstrated commitment to promoting gender equality
- Good written and spoken English

Ability to keep clear and concise records

Desirable competencies

- Financial management ability
- Experience in supervising staff
- At least 5 years of Logistics. Management experience in a development or relief setting

This is a fixed assignment for six (6) months with possibility of extension, interested applicants should submit application latter and CV

The Human Resources and Administrative Officer OXFAM GREAT BRITAIN

95-A Malumanay Street

Teacher's Village, Dillman, Quezon City 1101 FAX 927-0499 email etadeo@oxfam.org.uk

Deadline of application . 10 February 2006

ONLY SKORTLISTED CANDIDATES WILL BE CALLED FOR INTERVIEW PREVIOUS APPLICANTS NEED NOT HE-APPLY

WANTED SEAMEN

FOR IMMEDIATE DEPLOYMENT TO OUR CRUDE/PRODUCT/CHEMICAL TANKERS (Principal's Accreditation Cert. No. 000813)

MASTER

(Salary - US\$ 6,341 per month) Not more than \$4 years old

CHIEF OFFICER

(Sidney - 1285-4,245 per month) Not more than 45 years old SECOND OFFICER

(Salary - US\$ 2,698 per month) Not more than 35 years old.

THIRD OFFICER (Salary - US\$ 2,335 per month)

CHIEF ENGINEER

 (Salary - USS 6,839 per month) Not more than 54 years old

1º ASST. ENGINEER

Salary - 1255 4,800 per month) Not more than 45 years old

2nd ASST. ENGINEER

(Salary - US\$ 2,698 per month)

3rd ASST. ENGINEER (Salary - USS 2,335 per month)

· Not more than 30 years old

Not more than 30 years old. ELECTRICIAN

(Salary - 4.85 2.698 per month) EUMPMAH

(Salary - US\$ 1,737 per annult) CATTALI

(Salary - 95\$ 1,737 per month)

NOTE. FOR PETTY OFFICERS POSITION - Not more than 40 years old At least 5 years Tanker Experience With minimum of 1 year Experience on the Position applied

AMOSUP BENEFITS + COMPANY BONUSES ALL APPLICANTS MUST BE IN POSSESSION OF ALL VALID DOCUMENTS

> Your career advancement is assured!! Full Filipino Crew!

REPORT TO

OSG SHIP MANAGEMENT MANILA, INC. Suite 1208 Ermita Center Bldg., 1350 Roxas Blvd., Manila TEL. NOS. 536-3496 / 536-2150 POEA License No. 001-SB-042005-UL

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> or email us at careers@entheosit.com



Please submit your Application Letter,

Resume, Transcript of Records and Certicates of Employment not later than January 25, 2006.

www.onthocolt.com

think about IT

QUEZON CITY RED CROSS

A Chapter of the Philippines National Red Cross Since 1948 Civic Center, Quezon City Hall Cripd., Delman, Quezon City Telephone Nos. 920-3672/433-2151

FOR IMMEDIATE HIRING

The Quezon City Red Cross is lavising qualified applicants for the following positions 1. Community Development Officer

Grapuate of any 4 year course preferably in the field of Social Work/Social Sciences, Psychology, Sociology and Mess Communication Minimum of 2 years actual working experience in similar capacity

Computer Marala Good Command of the English language (written & oral)

2. Bookkeeper Grapuate of Bachelor of Science in Commerce/Business Administration

preferably major in accounting. Two or more years actual expedence

Good command of the English (anguage (oral & written)

COM SOUTH BEATT WHAT IN FIRST BEATING

As least a Degree in Business Administration Commerce major in Accounting/ Banking of Finance At least 2 years experience in fund raising activities

Computer Identità

Good command of the English language
Can conceptualize, plen and implement fund raising programs/activities the formal spine on the Cross forth.

Graduate of any 4-year courso Computer literate Good commend of the English language (written & oral) Can conceptualiza, plan and implement programs and activities under Red

- Charles on Walnut - I Service

Graculate of any 4 year course profesanty Social Work or Social Sciences

Good command of the English language (written & brall) Can conceptualize, plan and implement programs and activities under

Volunteer Services

6. International Humanitarian Law Coordinator

Graduate of any 4 year boutse Computer literate Good command of the English language (written & oral)
Adequate isnowledge of Red Cross policies, rules, procedures or operating

7. Information Technology Officer

Possession of Bacrialo, & Degree in Computer Science, Busines Administration or related field Ability to read English effectively At least with one (1) year of professional and technical computer information technology systems expenence such as programming, computer systems, analysis design and or the administration of a maintener

With a Bacheloi's Dogree in Journalism, Advertising or Communications
At least 1 year of solid writing and editing experience
Ability to work under deadline pressure and exits hours if needed on

BSSIGNMENTS Applicants are requested to submit their Comprehensive Resumé and other pertinent documents on or belore January 20, 2006 at Quezon City Red Cross Chapter

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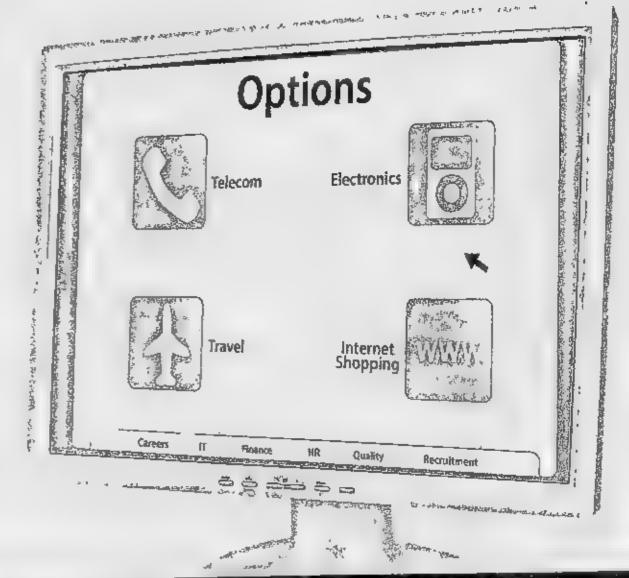
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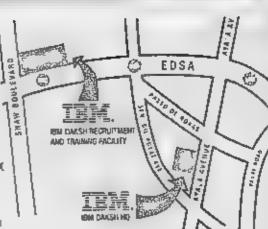
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The candidate must be a Certified Public Accountant and must possess the necessary skills for the job. Interested parties may send their Bio-Data, pictures and other relevant documents to Suite 7B, the Valero Tower, 122 Valero Street, Makati City, Metro Manila - Attn.: FER by Friday,

20 January 2006 at the latest

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Applicants should submit their resumé with Islant 2x2 photo, and portfolio to

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Attention: Ms. Myla Monica Tayson #8 San Manuel St., Brgy Kepitolyo, Paing City Telefax B31 4200, E-mail fare@philonine.com Mondays-Endays 8:00 AM 5:00 PM Deadline of Submission: Jenuary 31, 2005 (Tuesday)

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- Must have at least 2 years experience in credit analysis and evaluation of applications for consumer loans such as auto, personal or housing loan.
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Loans Operations Officer - San Fernando, Pampanga (Code: LOO)

- Must have at least 2 years experience in consumer loans documentation and processing, in a supervisory capacity, preferably gained from a bank or financial institution.
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- These positions are open to fresh graduates with pleasant disposition, customer service orientation and well developed communication and interpersonal skills
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Interested applicants are advised to bring or send their resume, transcript of records and 2X2 photos no later than 3 February 2006 to:

> Curie: **Human Resource Division** 2/F Salustiana D. Ty Tower, 104 Paseo de Roxas, Legaspi Village, Makati City 1229 e-mail: PSB_Recruitment@aig.com

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Yuchangco Tower, RCBC Plaza, Ayata Avenue, Makati City. Tel. No. 8451026 / 8451040 http://www.r-blzacademy.com http://www.ca.istudy.co.kr http://www.themeschool.com

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bound be able to work and speak to all types of people

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- Loves feshion & knows current trends in ladieswear
- Will be involved in design dev't & retail merchandising W/ experience or exposure in slore operations & inventory mgml,
- w/ strong organizational skills W/ artistic background, at least 2-3 yrs work experience
- Malure, with readership capabilities
- Female, below 30 yrs old, w/ courses in Fine Arts, Advertising, Marketing, Graphic Arts. Fashlon Design Management & related

FASHION DESIGNER - 7 - 4 -

- Will be involved in design & dev't of men's and ladies, lean wear
- W/ work experience in design or retail preferred
- Will be involved in product sourcing & sampling
- W/ strong organizational skills
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- Submit portfolio of designs for teen wear w/ resumé

Send resume with credentials or fax/e-mail to: ec

HUMAN RESOURCES DEPT. (HRD) 996 Pablo Ocampo Sr. St.(Vito Cruz) Malate, Manila Tels, #525-3593/523-0957 Fax # 521-36-71 E-mail: maye@elitegarments.com

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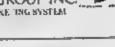
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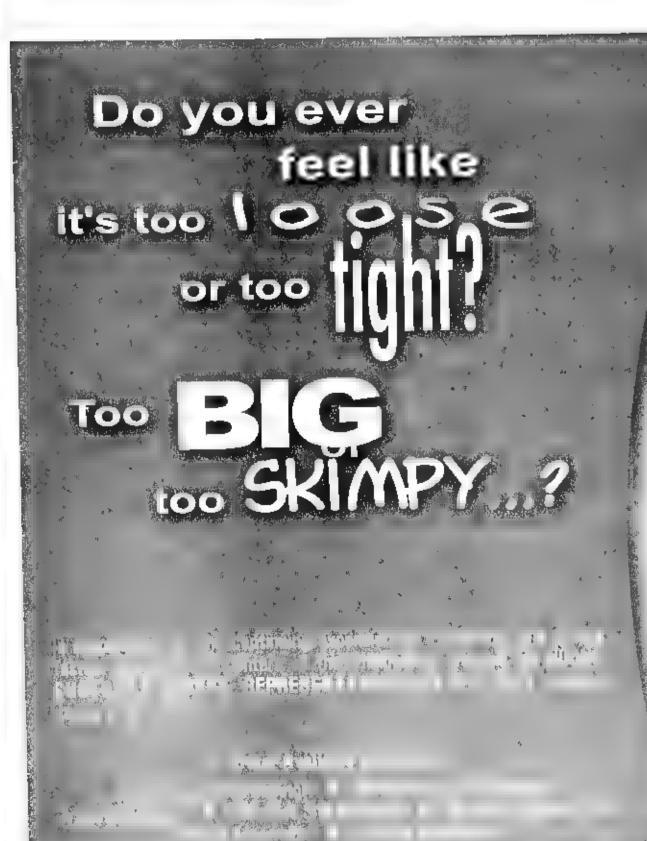
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design, system or database administration and the like § The candidate should have an outstanding skill in the use of office automation tools, esp. flowcharing or diagramming. spreadsheel and word processing software.

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FINANCE IT COORDINATOR

\$ Post Management Degree in Business Management

\$ Five (5) years combined expenience in finance accounting and information technology (IT) T expenience should be in any of the following fields: project management, systems development, systems re-engineering, and customer support for at least one (1) year. Finance / accounting experience should include general accounting, cost accounting, treasury. budget and audit

g Educational background in or work exposure to any of the following fields, distribution, third party logistics, warehouse management, transportation, financials

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§ Certification on accountancy

\$ Good oral communication skills

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Diligence is outstanding worker's key to success

By Ime Morales Aznar Contributor

FOR JAIME OPIDER, DILIgence is the key to success. If you do not have genuine love for your work, and honest to And in May 2005, the Rotary goodness zeal and industry, where will you get the strength and determination to receive, segregate and count as much as a thousand water meters and related waste materials every single day? Not to mention repair those that can still be fixed, those that need to be sold

Opider singlehandedly received, segregated, counted, stored and disposed of almost 40 tons of waste materials in a period of only four months. He repaired, calibrated and repainted more than 2,000 dis mounted water meters in the same period. And because of his hard work his company, Manila Water Company, tary Club of Manila as an anearned more than P3 million mual search for outstanding in additional revenues for a "blue collar" workers of the period of four months. Looking at the company's revenue history, aggregate revenue derived from the sale of waste materials was only P1 3 million, for a period of 20 months

For all his hard work, Opider received in December Manggagawa award from

Tower awardee

CAREER



Club of Manila chose him to be one of the nine Tower (The Outstanding Workers of the Republic) awardees for 2005. He received a cash prize from Metrobank Foundation, Inc., a trophy, an honorary Bachelor of Technology degree from the Technologiand store for later disposal, cal University of the Philippines (Opider finished high school but was not able to go to a university), and scholarships for his children from the Central Colleges of the Philippines and Pamantasan ng Lungsod ng Maynila. Opider says, "Most important for me is the honor that I received "

The Tower Awards was founded in 1975 by the Rocountry. The awards are given in recognition of the contribution of skilled workers, the force that constitutes the "backbone of our country's industrial capacity", to our economic development.

Humble start

Opider was born to a poor Huwarang family in Surigao. Being the eldest, and because his parents Manila Water Company were sick, he had to work for

his family's needs. After finishing high school, his parents were not able to send him to college, and so he started doing hard manual work at a young age. In 1997, he worked briefly in Manila before going abroad to work as a pape fitter When he came back to the country, he got married and moved to Leyte, working for a fertilizer manufacturing com pany. He went back to Surigao again, bringing his wife and two children with him, fell ill. When he got better, Opider decided to bring his came a construction worker,

an institution abroad. I hope

grandparents' financial assis-

tance. I know that I have a

chance to get a scholarship if

I take my MS in Physics from

my alma mater, which is a

before he got a job at MWSS as laborer, then pipe fitter

When the agency was privatized and became Manila Water Company, about 90 percent of the original employees, including Opider, was absorbed by the new company. He has worked for MWSS for seven years, and as meter services associate 2 for Manila Water for eight years As such, his responsibility is to accept dismounted water meters and waste materials (fittings, tailpieces, gate bulbs, etc.), segregate them by brand and by size, and count all the materials. He also separates those water meters that should be disposed from those that can still be repaired. He brings those for repair to the meter repair area, doing the repairs himself. The water meters for disposal are brought to the storage area and collected until they can be weighed and sold

Solution to problem

When the old system was still being used, dismounted water meters were not properly turned over to Manila Water Company. A lot of the waste materials were not being returned. There were also repairable meters that were where, unfortunately, Opider not being fixed The procedure was not properly documented and there was no adequate family back to Manila. He be- control over the acceptance,

DILIGENCE/P PARK

'Terrorists' are everywhere!

By Tita Datu Puangco

EVERYDAY

we are re-

we planned to relax and

watch the concert "A Trib-

ute to George Canseco."

We arrived at the PICC

parking area early. The

guards did their routine

check of the vehicle and

informed us that we can

park at the distant end or

at the right side of the

full. There were cordoned

areas and some reserved

spaces. Since one of my

companions was a senior

citizen with arthritis, I

decided to drop them at

the entrance door so they

won't have a hard time. I

then looked for a space to

park. While looking for a

place to park, I happened

to ask two more PICC

me that I could park on

one side or on the distant

end. Luckily, or so I

thought, one vehicle va-

cated a space beside the

vehicle owned by a TV

the street as he was re-

serving it for their direc-

tor. "Pasensya na,

malakas ho kasi yon," he

said. As far as I can re-

that I couldn't park beside the TV network's ve-

hicle then I would have

first, there's no reserva-

tion placed so it's my

right to park in that area.

Just let him (referring to

the director) take the

parking on the other side

proceeded to go in, fell in

line, and looked for my

seat. Inside the plenary

hall, another TV network

employee approached me

and asked me to transfer

the car somewhere else

because it was for their

director, Irritated and I

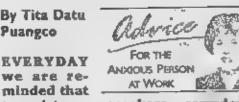
felt stalked, I replied

"Bakit siya late, director

So I told him "I have al-

parked somewhere else.

able to park.



pala siya. You should have cordoned the area placed a re-

terrorists are everywhere. served marking so nobody They are out to sow ter- can take that place. He ror, and damage one's can use the slot that you property, life, limb and are asking me to occupy." sanity. Last Nov. 19, 2005 Then be left.

While I was in the comfort room, a fat lady arrogantly approached my companions and introduced herself as an assistant producer of the TV network. In a civilized society, a person should come in front or near the person one wants to talk to. This uncouth lady did The parking was almost not bother to go near my companions but instead stood on the aisle and shouted at the top of her voice asking them to transfer the said vehicle.

My companions initially ignored her since they did not know what she was talking about. They thought the ill-mannered girl who was throwing her "weight" literally and figuratively, was talking guards where I could to her "slaves" or to a park, and they again told gatecrasher who did not pay P1,030 per ticket to watch the show. However, she continued shouting at the top of her voice for all the guests to network. Hence, I was bear, so my companions could not take it anymore On my way to the ple- and answered back. nary hall, a man wearing Maybe realizing her misa camouflage jacket introtakes, she left. Whether she apologized or not, my duced himself as an emplayee of the television companions who were terrorized could not renetwork and told me to member park on the other side of

When I took my seat, my companions told me what happened and asked me to transfer the car because they might member, the three PICC disturb us in the middle guards told me that I of the show. Since I knew could use only that side that I did not violate any to park. If they told me parking rules, I did not need their request. A few minutes later, the TV network employee who first approached me came back and requested me to transfer the car or be ready parked, I came in would lose his job. Based on what transpired earlier, I realized that his superior was an "ego-tripper" who is capable of firing anyone without a reason. I pitied him. I anyway malakas naman agreed to transfer the car pala siya." I smiled then as long as there's an available space.

I went out, the network employee pointed to me a vacant space, he apologized and I accepted it, then I transferred the car. The show started more than an hour late. We enjoyed the tribute

TERRORISTS/P 9★★★

'I am locked in wrong career!'

By Josie Q. Santamaria

I KNOW WHAT IS THE RIGHT career for me but my late father's parents won't let me. They supported my studies in college and continue to support my mother and three sisters who are still studying. My grandparents, especially my grandmother, who wields the power in our family and the families of my two aunts and an uncle, want me to work in the family business, because I'm the only grandson who carries their family name, and the eldest grandchild at that.

My late father had worked in the family business throughout his life until he cum laude honors from a had a fatal heart attack at age 38. I'm now 24 years old and had worked in the family business for almost two years to please my grandparents when I could have finished my MS in Physics.

My experience working in Ph.D in Physics, the latter in get a Ph.D degree.

ASK YOUR CAREER

Josie O Santamaria

my grandparents' business had convinced me that business is not and can never be my career. My mother told me to look at a business career on the positive side so that I can begin to like it. She thinks that I am biased and do not see the good side of a business career because I'm so focused on a research and teaching

career in physics. I finished BS Physics with state university. I like physics very much and I want to devote my life to research and teaching. To build a career in research and teaching requires that I take further



BY DIONSIO

I agree with my grandparto apply for a scholarship to ents that I will not become rich in this career but it is take a Ph.D in Physics what will make me happy and abroad, but I would need my

What can I do? Please beip

Mr. Distraught Scientist

I agree with you that you state university and later to studies i.e., take an MS and a get a foreign scholarship to can find fulfillment of your | AM/P 9元会会

Unafraid to try

By Teresa R. Tunay, OCDS

LINETTE, A PRIEND'S SISTER, IS A VERY COMPETENT worker. She's "just an AB graduate" but she's the type who is so capable she can handle any job you give her. And so she would be managing departments that other people with doctorates would. But she is also very picky about her bosses-she wouldn't endure those she deemed inferior to her, as she needs to be able to look up to her boss. And then, the inevitable came. She came to work under a vice president she thinks is so immature in ways both professional and personal. One particularly exasperating day she ventilated, "He's older and has lots of degrees but oftentimes I feel like putting him across my lap to give him a good spanking! He's terribly childish, can't even do his job well yet he wants me to do things his way! Bah, I have a track record to protect!" She asked me if she should resign; I asked her how her boss is as a person. "In fairness, he's a very good person naman,

in fact, likeable at his best," she sheepishly admitted.
"So who's being childish?" I teased her and suggested, "Once in a while, forget about how brilliant you are and just trust in his goodness. If you must reason out, do so believ ing you're talking to an adult and a superior; your patience

will pay off in the long run." Even at the workplace, being a child has its uses. The children that Jesus would have coming to Him can be adults who are children at heart-they are unafraid to try the unknown for they trust in the love and goodness of the Father who created them. (E-mail the author at teresa_de_manila@yahoo.com).

REFLECTIONS **FOR THE WORKING SOUL**



Gospel: Mark 10:13-16 When Jesus saw this he became indignant and said to them, "Let the children come to me; do not prevent them, for the kingdom of God belongs

A child's face

By Bishop Preciose D. Cantillas, SDB,DD

THE GREAT CONCERN OF JESUS FOR CHILDREN AS SHOWN in today's Gospel reminds me of one of the main reasons why mulnons of Filipinos work abroad—the good of the children and the family. Satisfying the needs of the children and providing them with a brighter future are very important reasons, which push millions of overseas Filipino workers (OFW) to work hard and endure sacrifices in foreign and distant lands. The sense of parental duty or the instruct for preservation could also be some reasons for working hard to earn and buy materials and things for the children's needs. Work and the manner of working then, are also concrete ways that human and responsible parents show their love for the children and the young.

Jesus, however, loves dearly the children not out of duty and obligation but because "the kingdom of God belongs to such as these"-the children. Jesus shows us that in the children one can understand what the kingdom of God is; that what one does to the children, who are "least" is done to Him and that unless one does not become "like little children" he cannot enter the kingdom of heaven. Jesus' loving care for the children illustrates that one's work for the sake of the children has a direct bearing on our relationship with God

Every time the worker sees a child, he can look beyond the hard work and toil he has to undergo, the boredom of the daily tasks he has to bear, or the pains and difficultles he has to suffer. The face of a child seen with faith in Jesus' words could mirror for the worker the joys and happiness of God's love and care. (E-mail the author at mfvg@skyinat.net)

Diligence is outstanding worker's key to success

حرس خالا معادلات بالمالية عالى مع معادلات عادلات معادلة المعادلة ا

From page B**

repairs, disposal and storage of the water meters and its waste materials. This practice led to inaccurate and low revenue for the company "For example," Opider explains, "tampered meters don't register the right values, and that translates to lost income for the comрапу "

Opider, together with his superiors, drafted and implemented a system that would track the number of meters and materials that are released, and those that are returned. The new system also addressed the other problem areas in the procedure "It's very tedious," says Opider, "I run around, I do the paper work first, I really have to be very meticulous with details and record keeping." But doesn't have to lose money

happy with the outcome," he

Recently, Opider registered a total of 30 tons of waste materials for saie-that's additional income for the company He specifically asks the contractors to return old water meters and materials. because now he knows how much is still out there with them With the help of his records and the new system in place, he can look for the missing items and demand for their return. That's animproved.

accurate or tampered meters, we don't have to issue new ones and the company since this is the battle plan, because of maccurate read-

he does his job to the best of ings," he says. From the time his abilities, without com- he started to implement this me, as long as I can do it, I plain. "The company is very new system in October, until February 2005, Manila Water He admits that he's not one happy if you are in the right made more than P3 milion in to take it easy. "I have a big career You are sure of what

Work values

Opider believes that if the company succeeds, employ ees like him will benefit, too, "I want to help the company, that's my motivation," he reveals "I know that if the company closes down, I won't have work and my family will have nothing to eat " Despite the difficulties that his job entails, he does his best to do his job other area where Manila well He is the lone person Water Company's revenue at Manila Water tasked to receive all water meters "I'm also able to repair in- from all dismounted water meters from all over Metro Manila, "It can total to around 1,000 meters a day, or 500 on slow days," he

"Whatever work is given to From page 8** will do it," Opider affirms. talents and potentials, and be responsibility, I can't take it you want but you can not exeasy." For Opider, success press your career choice withwill come if a person is in- out alienating your grandpardustrious, if he sets his plans ents who want you to be in into motion and not simply let them remain as plans. "You can't just think about of your career inclination; a what you're going to do, you career in physics, doing rereally have to do it, that's success for me."

He is also realistic and work," Opider says Industry, coupled with faith and prayers, are for Opider the secrets to success. "Even if you work hard, but if you don't know how to call on God, nothing will happen to

'I am locked in wrong career!'

their business, possibly as their successor. You are sure search and teaching, is what you want to do.

Your problem is how to level-headed. "I don't have a give a firm and definite "no" degree so I don't think about to your grandparents without lofty things anymore, I just having to feel guilty and do my work and I love my alienating them since your family is dependent on them for support and you would also depend on them for further studies in your chosen career.

So how do you go about giving your assertive "no" that will result in a win-win situation? I suggest that you make an appointment to talk to your mother and then to your grandparents. But before you do, prepare what you will say. Perhaps you can cording to the suggested for-

1. I know you want me to help you in the business, perhaps to take major responsibilities. I really tried my best these past two years.

2. However, I am not happy doing what I have been doing these past two years. I have inherited a different set of my future.

3. My career interest is in systems.com ph.)

physics. I like it very much. I am very happy when (here, cite the activities in physics that enthuse you.). I want to spend my life doing research on (here cite again your field of interest in physics) and teaching students about my findings and the knowledge 1 acquire from it.

Please give me a chance_ to pursue my career interest. I need your help to pursue an MS in Physics this coming June. After taking MS, or perhaps, while taking it, I will apply for a doctorate in physics in a good university in the US and apply for scholarship with board and lodging I cannot accomplish these without your blessings and your active support.

5. Perhaps, one of my sisters and some of my cousins will have a business inclination and follow in your footsteps. Successful businesses are run by many women, just like you, Grandma.

6. Please help me fulfill my vision of being a great physicist, doing research in (put specialization here) and puboutline what you will say ac- lishing a book on my research.

I hope, Mr. Distraught Scientist, that your script, prepared in advance, and delivered with conviction but with respect and humility, will get to like the tasks given to me the nod and support of your elders. God bless you.

(Ms Santamaria has a Ph.D. in psychology and is a practicing psychologist, counselor, management consultant, exgenes from you, perhaps your ecutive coach and mentor. recessive genes. No matter Her company, Career Syshow I tried to see the positive tems, Inc., which she and her side of a business career, I am husband Jorge manage with not cut out for it. My heart is daughter Desiree S. Urbi, not in it. If my heart is not in specializes in career developit, I cannot be successful in it. ment, leadership and man-I know you want me to be suc- agement development processful and happy I can be grams, and outplacement successful and happy if I'm in counseling services, as well as the right career. If I'm not provide consulting services in successful, I will feel inferior human resources development and it will affect my life, my and organization developself-esteem, my present and ment E-mail feedback to carsys@career

'Terrorists' are everywhere!

From page Swww

incident with the "terrorist" lady. After almost two hours of destressing, we proceeded to the car and saw deep scratches on the hood and driver's door. We were supposed to be in a "safe" parking area manned by more than five PICC guards, but still the car was damaged.

From this experience, I realized that terrorists could be anywhere. They don't need to carry a gun, or a bomb to wield their terroristic activities. All they need is arrogance, power and a "damaging" mind. My only wish is that what we experienced won't happen again.

Terrorized Lady

conclusion. I remember from your car years ago attending a conenjoying the show

bright color or of its being zens like us.

What happened to you is the latest model. Two, most unfortunate. Based on make sure you park in a and forgot the earlier your story, there was dis- well-lit area, since vandals play of arrogance and typically would prefer to do power on the part of the their evil deeds in dark people of the TV network spots. Third, an advice from and this is most deplore my husband, who conable. While it may appear stantly amazes me with his logical that the people who practical wisdom, if you got irritated with you may can choose a space, place have been those who dam- your car in between two exaged your car, I would not pensive cars. The costly cars be quick to jump to that will pull attention away

> dium. At the end of the the scratches. As for people show, I was dismayed at in power strutting like peascratches on the side of my cocks, we really would need cure. van. Vandals were obvi- to work towards growing ously at work while I was our culture from one that tolerates public display of ment Consulting, a training What can you do to pre- power and money to one vent your car from getting that is more caring and scratched? Here are some concerned with others and practical advice One, bring our quality of life Let us resource systems, leadership a modest car if you have a also strive to lower the choice, a car that will not power distance between the call attention because of its powerful and regular citi-

> Talking of concerts, my friends at Lightning Rod Corporation are sponsoring a pre-Valentine concert Feb. 13 at 7 p.m. at the AFP Aguinaldo Theater, featuring cultural icon, Ramon "RJ" Jacinto and Friends with The Men in Gold as front act. Proceeds will go to help the Bukas Palad Social Centers of the Pocolare Movement. Do get your tickets at Ticket World or at I suggest you let the insur- major National Bookstores cert at a renowned sta- ance company take care of or Robinson Department Store outlets. My friends are sure your cars will be se-

(Ms Puangeo is CEO of Ancilla Enterprise Developand consulting company specializing in strategy management, leading change, human and enterprise training Email feedback to advice@ ancillaedc.com.ph or call tel. number 892-2895)

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Business course graduate or its equivalent must have at least 5 years experience in the condiments market, able to develop and mplament strategic business plans and programs; excellent communication, presentation and relationship-building skills; good team player

QA/R&D Assistant

Female, Food Technology graduate or health related course; at least 3-5 years experience in the food manufacturing industry: preferably with knowledge in GMP, SSOP, HACCP; familiar with regulatory requirements

PROMO MERCHANDISERS

Mate / Female: 20-26 years old; at least 5'2" in height (Female) and 5'8" (Male), HS graduate or Coilege level / graduate, preferably with 5 months experience as merchandiser with pleasing personality Successful applicants will be assigned in leading supermarkets in Metro Manife, Cavite, and Laguna areas.

QA/R&D and Merchandisers are advised to apply personally and bring resume. 2x2 picture, NB1 clearance, SSS number, TOR or HS diploma to the address below: Managerial positions are advised to send in their resume, 2x2 picture via e-mail line@tri-lays.com or to the address below:

The Human Resources Department Lorenzana Food Corporation 551 M. Naval St., Navotes, Metro Manila

NOUTRER.

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, the recognized leader in the newspaper industry with its balanced news and tearless views is committed to helping our trade partners achieve its business goals and serving the community via generation of employment.

We are in need of

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT SUPERVISORS

to work for our Distributor Partner in the areas of Pampanga, Bataan, Tariac, Nueva Ecija and Zambales.

JOB DESCRIPTION:

Will handle a sub-distributor partner to grow the business.

QUALIFICATIONS:

- er College graduates from the localities;
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- ra. Must possess excellent oral and written communication skills both in English and Filipino,
- Preferably Male, willing to work on a graveyard shift, fast-paced. dynamic and flexible environment.
- Background in sales is not necessary, but a plus.

Send your Resume to GQY Distribution Group Inc. at GQY Distributors Inc., Dolores Homesite Extension, Dolores, San Fernando Pampanga

You can email it to

or call/fax 045-9614048 and look for Mr. Mar Manabat or Mr. Jess Yap.

jessy@mail.lrnet.net.ph or gdydistribution.com.ph



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Position offer career growth opportunities and compatitive starting selary. Please submit your resuma, transcript of recorde, photo and cover-

> The Executive Director email, pmap@pmap.org.ph 670 Lee St. Addition Hits Mandaluyong City

3 Sun Traders Corp. 152 Pasig Blvd., Pasig City needs PACKAGING SALESMEN

To promote imported flexible packaging materials

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Will accept fresh graduate of any engineering (preferred) or marketing course

Proficiency in English both written and oral: computer literate Selling experience in packaging/converting industry helpful With driver's acense

Good basic salary + commission

Call Tel. Nos. 671-2084/2103

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- Not more than 35 years old Graduate of Civil Engineering or Architecture Course
- Preferably LICENSED Experience n
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- Willing to be assigned in various construction projects With good quality leadership &
 - PUILCHASER
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- 23 40 years old
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- Skilled With good quality leadership &
- Computer ilterate

Interested applicant may call 912-72-01

Look for Ms. Aida or Ms. Cherry

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To build capacity of UNICEF pariner Local Government Units (LGU) in facilitating authentic child and youth participation activities as part of annual programmes of cooperation. This requires full time consultancy work in the UNICEF Manila office for an initial 11-month period with the main focus on developing higher quality LGL work plans/activities to reach

Essential qualifications.

 Advanced university degree or equivalent background in Communication, Journalism international Relations, Communication Research, or other relevant disciplina Pemiliar with human rights-based approach to programming

 Excellent knowledge of English and Filipino, both oral and written Please send cover letter and corriculum vitae before Jan. 20, 2006 to The HR UNIT through e-mail: optemander@unical.org We will only reply to shortlisted candidates.

Computer therate in standard office applications

An upscale retail store specializing in home & fashion accessories is in need of

STORE FRONTLINERS with the following qualifications:

- Education: college graduate
- Experience: 2 years experience in retail sales
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- Technica, know-how: Microsoft Office, preferably famil ar with point-of-sale systems
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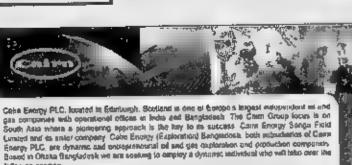
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Qualifications:

- a. 21 years old and above
- Graduate of BS Chemistry or Chemical Engineering course from a reputable college or university At least 1 year laboratory job experience from
- a uPVC pipe menulacturing plant Must be familiar with ISO system/procedures
- a. Computer literate

Interested applicants may contact Mr. Clan Brinces at Tel. No. 899-0432/0208 local 104 for schedule of Interview. www.jobmarkstonline.com



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Monage the in-house geoscience learn and consultating Develop the organisation's portion of persons and appointment for imput to the Cerm Group Business Planning cycle Sook to haramise the volume of in parceptate conventioned and wannesses of appropriate conventioned and wannesses good conventioned and wannesses

THE PERSON At least 5 years management expensives in the size of generations in the oil and gas ardinaty
Georgianas background, both in
exploration and development with it

strong technical grounding Hands-on experience on offstrom gas developments stong with summerceal and economics enablishess Good communication skills, the ability in enteract with people at All levels in the organisation and a train player.

Kinst be comfortiged in molecularity and complex said challenging statistication.

The position will be based in our Cleaks office in Bengladesh. Fluency in the English is ne postori var or based in an Service of Orby short-brisd polaristic cards demokrat 8. Experience package in demokratic. Orby short-brisd polaristic cards https://oweld.gorsportally.by the Principal lists Jesustrylously February in Markin

Inherested conditates should send a current CV (soft and herd copy) with your full creditativity santons the expected salary to



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is other related field. Preferency in the use of computer software in accordance with

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diversity and mass have the shifty to work as a pro-active member of a team No teast 10 years relevant professional experience in media-related work. Good contacts in Phyloppina mediateivit succept are an assai. Bapartence with an

nternational organization ap advantage Fluency in written and oral English is required.

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> Administrative Assisted United Nations Inforgation Centre 30º Ploor, RCDC Plaza, Yachengeu Tower, Rooms 3017/3018 6819 Aysla Avenue corner Sea, Gil Payat Avenue, Makati City Pax 889-7 77 or 901-0200 harkest Confidential - Surform Information Officer

Clusing date of application is at 4:00pm, Tuesday. At January 2006

Calling all young dynamic, aggressive, and confident individuals with pleasing personality! Background in SALES is preferred.

Join our Elits Marketing Team!

Send your Resumé with 2x2 picture to radiance, inc@gmail.com 2/F Victoria I Bidg., 1670 Quezon Ave., cor EDSA, QC, Tel Nos. 425-1508 to 10 Walk-ins are welcome M-F 10 a.m.-4 p.m.

A feading company in the industrial laundry is in need of a highly aggressive individual STRATEGIC BUSINESS OFFICER

identily business opportunities for expansion; Develop and Implement cost affective sales strategy. Manage and expand the existing franchising operation; Develop the annual sales budget and marketing plan, and manage a stall of 2-3 people

Independently Graduate of any business course, preferably in marketing, MBA degree an advantage. Pref. with 2-3 yes, experience in sales and/or tranchising. Competitive package awaits the successful candidates. Submit resumb we

Must be start-up oriented, hands-on & willing to executve programs

photo & copy of transcript of records to: # 285-E Tomas Morato, Q.C. or fax lo 930-5858 or small to jvisjano@gmail.com or bagon@lycos.com

HERTFORD CONSULTING on International Management Consultant Group with major projects in the Philippines and the U.A.E., is now inviting experienced and qualified professional to apply for the following positions:

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- Familiarity with investment and financial analysis methods, and their
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- Computer literate and proven interpersonal skills Male or Famele, 30 to 35 years old

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- Must be a graduate in Marketing or Mass Communication. Pamiliarity in detail of property and construction industry with previous experience in similar role
- information data base and natwork essential Male or Female 30 to 40 years old

New Business Manager

- Must be a graduate in Marketing or Mass Communication Comprehensive knowledge of property and obstitruction industry with established network
- Capability to present company and its services to potential clients including preparing proposal Knowledge of business promotions and public relations Male or Female 30 to 45 years old

Bullding Services Manager

- Must be a Mechanica/Electrical Engineering Graduate Proven experience in managing consultants and specialist contractors Effective in musti-cultural environment

- Experienced to all espects of engineering services Knowledge of costs and value engineering Male 30 to 45 years old

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- Must possess a Bachelor's degree in Engineering
 At least 5 years of work experience as Quantity Surveyor or equivalent
 with experience in cost estimating and quantity take-off; contract
 preparations, edministration & implementation
- Able to work independently Male or Female

- Legal Officer Male, between 35, 40 years old
 - Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in Law or
 - At least 10 year(a) of working experience in corporate law acquired from a multinational setting; with preferential knowledge of construction

Secretary

- Candidate must possess at least a Bachelor's/College Degree in
- Secretarial or equivalent Female, between 25-30 years old
- At least 3 year(s) of work experience in a related field end can work with
- minimum supervision Knowledge in computer office software applications. Acts to type at least 30 to 35 wpm. Good Interpersonal relation.

We seek candidates who possess initiative, leadership and good communication skills. Employment packages are commensurate with experience and ability

Please send bio-date with application letter, reterences, current photograph (passport size) and contact telephone numbers to

> **HRD Meneger** 701-702, 7º Floor, 139 Corporate Center Valero St. Salcado Village, Makati City O: Fax to 817-0812

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TriQuint Semiconductor, Inc. located in Oregon, United States of America is a leading supplier of high-performance components and modules for communication applications. We strive for diversity in our markets, applications, products, technology, and customer base Owing to our business expansion program, we seek high caliber and energetic Filipino professionals for the following position, which will be based in Laguna, Mantla.

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Responsibilities /Requirements.

- Representing Triquint Semiconductor at the Amkor sites and other sites in Asia, Managing a small staff in Assembly Engineering, Test Engineering, Production Control, Drop Shipment and Logistics related activities.
- Degree in any Engineering discipline with at least 7 years of high volume manufacturing management experience in PCB based SMT Process Engineering and Product/Testing.
- Good understanding of manufacturing quality management systems and manufacturing operations principles.
- Excellent communication and English language skills, both verbal and written. Ability to lead and develop diverse groups of people at different management/engineering levels.
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Auractive package of remuneration will be offered to qualified and successful candidates. Those interested, please send email attached with full resume not fater than January 27th, 2006 to ateng @tos.com

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 18 to 25 years old - Preferably Fine Arts graduate and Computer literate, can work on Adobe Photoshop, Adobe Illustrator, Corel Draw - Capability to translate ideas into artwork • Knowledge in commercial art trends

Interested parties may send resume, college transcript and 2×2 photo lo: DOW! HOSIERY MILLS (Maker of Darlington Socks) #92 Rubbarmaster Road, along T Santrago St. Bo. Lingunan, Valenzueta City

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Follow the Leader

PROJECT LEADERSHIP (ENGINEERING)

Our client is a leading global player in the field of heavy industries. They have interests throughout the world but with special focus in Southeast Asia. Our client is actively pursuing business opportunities in the Philippines, and is currently in search of a seasoned professional who can assume a Project Leadership

The successful candidate will be at the forefront of direction and proper execution of plans and programs; dealing with contractors and suppliers, optimizing costs; ensuring safety and security in all projects; and, working closely with the government and other concerned parties.

This is a high-level position which is best filled by somebody who has had General Management experience but still very much steeped in Project Management, preferably earned from the Engineering/Construction, Heavy Industries, and even Resource-based Industries. We are looking for a Leader, equipped with succinct commercial sense and astute decision-making skills.

Our client is prepared to offer a very attractive package of compensation and benefits to the right candidate. Interested candidates are invited to forward their resumes to regie gines@johnclements.com or direct calls to 845-2048. We will only entertain candidates until January 27, 2006.



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Medical background preformal With all least 2 years expended in claims processing and group health adjudication.

To Apply

Submit by email your comprehensive resume by January 31, 2005 to: positios consumo com or info@ios consulting.com

Motor Deliver in Person in International Offshore Systems Unit 1802 Aniel Global Corporate Center: 43 Dana Julia Vargas Ave., Ortigas Center, Postg City, Philippines 1605



for a living planet*

WWF and CARE are launching a new global programme to promote payments for watershed environmental services that can contribute towards poverty alleviation and environmental protection. WWF and CARE are searching for qualified candidates for a

NATIONAL COORDINATOR

The work involves developing business cases to implement payments schemes that would benefit poor upland communities. The applicants must have economics, social sciences or environment background; 5 years experience in environmental management with 2 years as project manager; basic knowledge of payments for environmental services; strong diplomacy and excellent English writing skills.

E-mail mmanalo@wwf.org.ph for more details of job description and application process. Submit resume by January 17, 2006 to: The HR unit c/o Manna Manalo, WWF Philippines, 4th Floor, JBD Plaza, # 65 Mindanao Avenue, Bagong Pag-asa, Quezon City. Tel. 9207923 / 7931 / 7926.



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- Computer literate Willing to be assigned in Bulacan, Pampanga/Angeles, Olongapo and Cebu*

'must be residing in Cebu RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT OFFICER

- Graduate of Social Science
- With experience in fund raising
- Computer literate

Can communicate effectively in both oral / written English Applicards may e-mail their application letter and comprehensive resumé not later than Jan. 20, 2006 to pearlsbuck@pldtdst.net or send to:

Pearl S. Buck Foundation-Phils., Inc. #28-A Eugenio Lopez St., South Triangle, O.C. For more inquiries you can call Angietyn C. Valerio at 925-5960



Management Level

Supervisory Level

Modical background preferred Medical background preferred With at 390\$2 5 years experience in the yens of local 5 years experience in monoging as infernalistial Company of any of the top 1000

College Grockwith with a Masters Degree as Business or any retailed Course.

componies in the Philippines

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care

Male or female, not over 30 years old Experience in air ticket reservations an advantage, but not necessary

SALES EXECUTIVE

TICKETING OFFICER

· With Marketing/Sales background

RESERVATIONS /

College graduate

Female, not over 30 years old

recent 2x2 picture to.

College graduate Preferably with travel related work experience With good communications and interpersonal

For Immediate Hiring

With extensive background in Inbound / outbound tours operation of a travel agency

Al least 26 years old but not more than 40 Excellent communication, planning and

BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT

Preferably with at least 2 years related work

Male or Female, not over 35 years old
 Graduate of Business, Management or Marketing

Excellent communication and interpersonal skills

TOURS MANAGER

organizing skills

EXECUTIVE

experience Computer Merale

Computer Merale interested applicants may eand their Resumé with

REGENT TRAVEL CORPORATION Regard Bidg 1415 Gen. Luna Street

Attn. The Personnel Officer o-mail to regent Opididal.not

SALES REPRESENTATIVE

Mate, Preferably with Truck Sales / Mech. Engly. Background Part timers with clients may be considered.

ACCOUNTING ASSISTANT

Female, Accounting Major Bring resumé al:

Prado & Sons Industries Inc. #5 Banshaw St., So. Caprl. Novaliches, C.C. 936-5804 / 9362973 / 4168967

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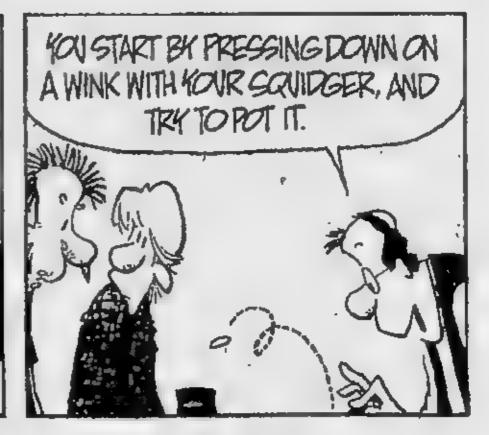


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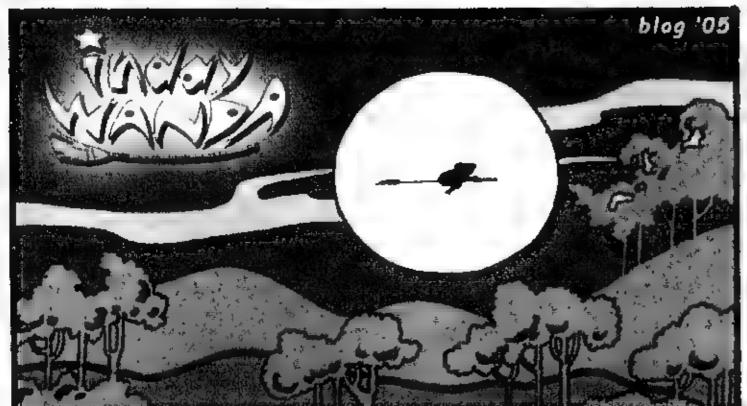






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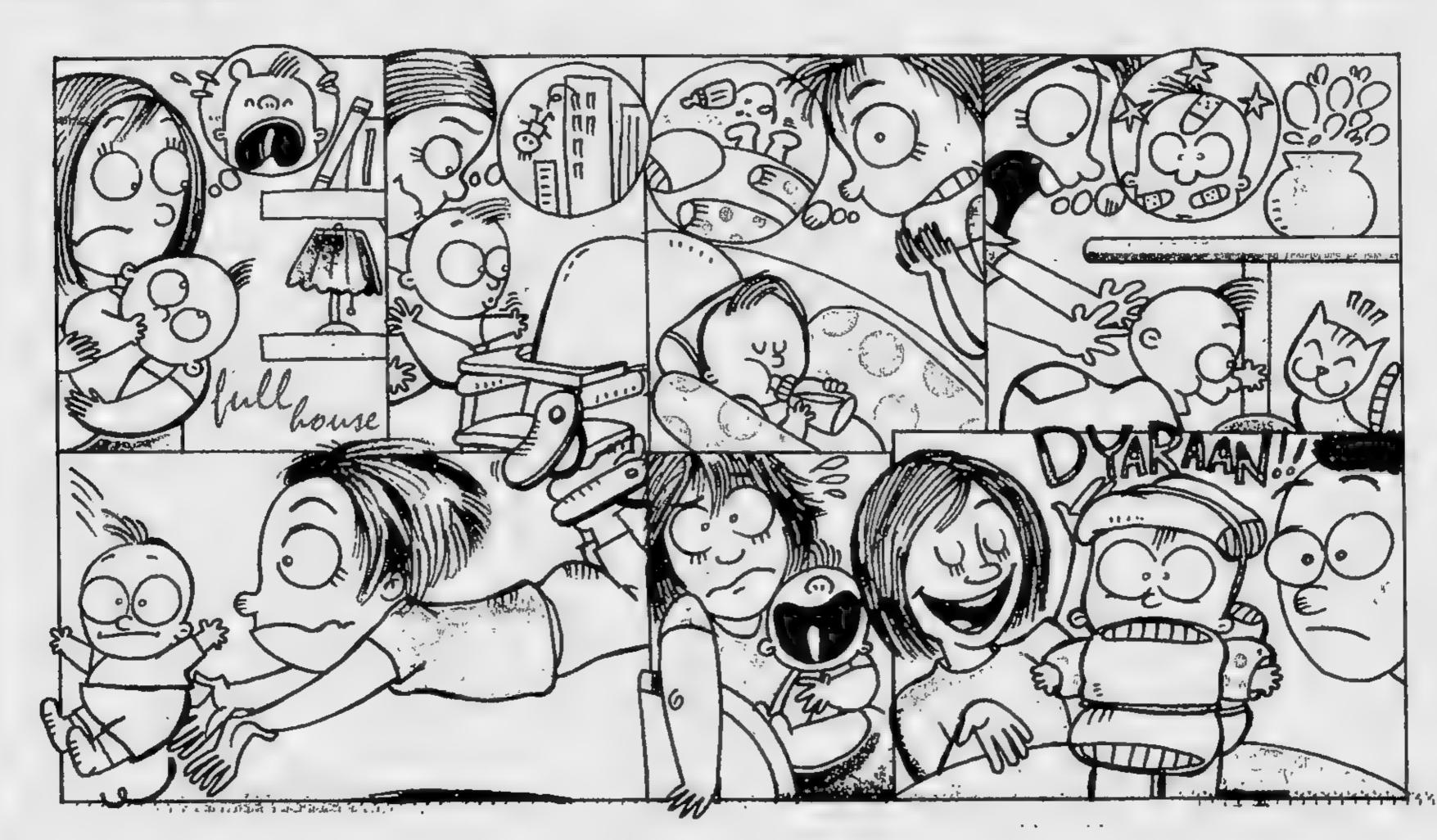






FULL HOUSE

BY STEPH BRAVO



sunday INQUIRER magazine

Rep. Risa Hontiveros-Baraque FRAGILE SHE ISN EVEN AFTER MIDOWHOOD, TEST TO SHE ISN EVEN AFTER MIDOWHOOD, THIS ACTIVICONGRESSWO

by Pennie Azarcon-dela cruz photographs by Ernie U. Sarmiento

This former cologisis and party list representative has proven that parties and commitment has nothing to the with looks class cripin and morriage partner. Recently widowed, the falks about loss illustation, and keeping her head above the steep of Philipping politics.

Editor in Chief Managing Editor Associate Editor Staff Writer Graphic Designer Design Consultant

Editorial Assistant

Advertising & Sales Manager

Alya B. Honesan Pennie Axarcon-dele Crass Road S. De Vern Syle S, Caruncho Chackle Quevedo-Set Lynett A. Villariba Sharon M. Folipe Kenny Nuyda

THE Sunday INQUIRER MAGAZINE holds affice at Chino Roces Ave. (formorty Passing Tame) corner Yague and Mescurge Sts., Malasti City, with interphone number 897-8805 tocals 317 and 348. Malling address: PO Box 2050, 1099 Martin, Philippines, 5-mell: sim@inquirer.com.ph. For press releases, send a-mail to pr_sim@inquirer.com.ph.

May Iniwang Bomba ang Diyos

Hindi pa urbusang nakapagligpic ang taon nang magkulay-dugo ang dati'y esmeraldang karagatan sa may laylayan ng Asya. Umaga tyong katulad ng dati: pupungas-pungas ang araw at dahan-dahan sa pag-iirat ang mga baybaying-kingsod ng Indonesia, 5ri Lanka, Thalland, Maldives at India nang bigla, walang sabt-sabl, watang paghuhunos-diling rumagasa ang tubig-alat at hinambales ang datampasigan ng ating pamamahinga.

Of natin iyon inasahan: sinong mag-aakalang aalon nang gayun-gayon na lang ang gailt sa dibdib ng dagat nang dahil lamang sa padalus-dalos na pagdausdos ng kinauupuang lupa?

A, marami sa atin ang nattalimot na may iniwang bomba ang Diyos sa pantog ng kalikasan at madalas, sumasabog ito nang walang paalam.

Pinagpala raw tayong mga nakaligtas: sa Pilipinas, bumubula ang bibig ng mga bulaan sa pagsasabing ang ating kaligtasa'y may bashas ng langit.

Ay, 'wag, wag ri'yo akong papaniwalam sa kabanalan ng myong kabalbalan sapagkat silang mga hinampas ng aion at di na muling nakabangon ay mga hampastupa't may Diyos ding di-iba sa atin.

Kristoffer Berse

Lesson on Literature 1: By Work, By Author, By Heart

"Sinong sumulating Coll of the Wild?" Tanong niva out of the blue, by surprise, Mula sa pagriripaso ng Indeks kontra Teksto ng mga sanaysay sa-ukoi sa, Para sa-mga manunulat, guro, mambabasa

Gaya niya, walang angatan ng mata, Sa binabasa, at gaya ko na ring abala:

"Hindi ko maalala-bakit? Nabanggit be (Ibig sabihi'y: may nawala bang pahina O maling dates na nattipa?)?" Urirat ko Sahay tayo sahay lapit at sipat sa pahinang Sinisipat kanan-kaliwa, kanan-kaliwa, sabay

Hugot ng pangalan sa haluhalong italamay Na memoryang pilit humuhugot ng letrang

Mapagkakakilanian, kumikilala ng personang Di kilala, dinudukal ang alaala ng mambabasang DI makatandang huminuha: "E. B. White--?" Huta kong malamang sa hindi ay hindi, ngunit Parang puti, parang kanluranin din, parang niyebe.

"Basta banyaga—alalaumbaga'y walang Pinoy Na wild, walang pa-call, call of call off lamang

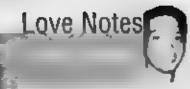
Na taal sa kayumangging kalishuwa nitong Kalituhan, o kaignoransyahan-"Ngunit bakit Nga ba talaga?" Dahil dapat kayang malaman Ninumang nakapagturo na ng "Pagtangkilik Ng Panidkan"? Nagkataong napadikit sa Panitik-

An? Nagkamalay na (nals) magsulat kuno ng Panitikan (panitikanan)? Hindi naman siguro tinutitya Dito ang musa o tinutuyo ang tinta ng haraya Kuning-kuning? Bagamat tila baga mortal na sala Litong di pagkahatid, di pagkabasa, sa isang akdang Kanonikal sa panitikan ng mundo-obra maestrang Ingles--o ikono ng icanluraning salaysay--O!

Patawarini Hindi ako dalubhasa o nag-aastang database: Hindi ako pantas gaya ng mga dinadambana ninyo:

"Wala sa sikmura ko, o puson, o puso ang nakanong, Sorry, wata sa dulo ng dila ko ang ngalang jack London."

Camilo M. Villanueva Jr.



Is She Waiting In Vain?

Could it be he's just giving me false hopes so he won't feel guilty about the fact that he was wrong? Some will find this pathetic, but I still love him

Dear Joe.

I AM Toni, 23, from Manila. Miguel was my boyfriend back when we were college freshmen. I used to have a crush on him because he's really cute and smart. But everything changed when he had to drop out of school to help out at home. had so much to do, lots of dreams to fulfill, and I was looking forward to graduating with honors. I thought this relationship would not help in any way, so I called it quits.

Even after we broke up he never stopped calfing every day for almost half a year; he couldn't understand why I decided to break up when everything was just about to begin, it even came to the point when I rejected his calls and told him that I didn't love him.

After three long years we met again at my brother's wake. Vulnerable as I was, I fell for him again. He was there to keep me company and to warry about me when my best friend was in the hospital. We were finally back together and we were both happy, or so I thought.

Joe, there came a time when I felt he was taking me for granted. I felt he didn't want to be with me anymore, that he was just was warting for the right moment to make his graceful exit. But then again, I never complained about sacrificing a few hours of sleep when he needed me. Or that maybe he found the whole situation overwhelming. Or that every disapproving remark we heard from everyone around us was too much for him. I couldn't help thinking that maybe he just wanted to get back at me for dropping him the first time That maybe, it was all just a lie.

Joe, it has been almost a year since we were together. I never lost the love I had for him, and I still want him back. But he said the only time he can be ready to be with me is when he has proven

asked for any of this, I'm not ready to

Why does he always say that he's not as happy as I think, because he loves me still, and that one day he will be bock? Could it be he's just giving me false hopes so he won't have to feel guilty about the fact that he was wrong? Same will find this pathetic, but I still love him. And that reason alone is enough for me to hold on to his promise that he will re-

Sincerely

I certainly hope that Miguel is reading this right now. What you are seeing is just icing on the cake. It's what is truly behind what he says that really matters. A man disrances himself from a woman for a reason. Love doesn't just die and feelings don't just fade away. Miguel couldn't have just fallen out of love. He wanted out because he wants to prove something to himself. He wants to be worthy of your love. These are all valid reasons, but could there be more?

Toni, I have always believed that unless two people in a relationship are able to openly tell each other what they feel anside, good or bad, they can never truly understand each other. It is important that

himself worthy of my love. But I never Miguel tells you what he truly feels about you and your relationship. It is also his responsibility to tell you if you'd just be waiting in vain or if he just needs a little time, I also believe that love doesn't make people wait. If we really love someone then we should not play with time and promises. If we don't love a person anymore, then we just have to be honest about it, even if it hurts.

> Toni, I don't biame you for not wanting to let go. I think you are just being fair to yourself by waiting for something good to happen. Talk to Miguel and listen to his heart. If he honestly tells you what he feels, then let that be your guide. Waiting is the option that most people take, but sometimes they refuse to accept it even when it's obvious that they are just waiting in vain.

Let us always remember that sometimes, we have to use our minds over our hearts when our feelings get too strong. When we think with our hearts, loving means clinging on when what we really need to do is set go, even if we still want to hold on.

LoveNotes is heard every Friday at 10:15 In the morning with replays at 7 p.m. on Wave 89.1 FM. Get your daily love quotes from Joe D' Mango via SMS by texting ON DEARJOE to 2968. Visit the official Lovenotes website at www.lovenotes.fm

Myth and Meaning, the Mangran Heritage Center's first public display of artifacts from different Mangran groups, pre-l-lispanic indigenous

script, and old-to-recent photographs depicting their way of big, until jun. 23 at the 2/F; Ayala Mi um Space, Makati Avenue. For inquiries, email manevanhc@catsl.net.ph or call (0918) 733-7927 or 757-7117 to 21 Entrance is free

Rock Orilon is holding skraultaneous exhi-

Rural Scene with Child" from the

Met's "Artes at Angkan" exhibit

betions of paintings mostly done in acrylic spanning the last 20 years of his arrisdo practice. Drilon's paintings are on view at all Magnet galleries-until Jan. 15 at Magnet Gallery ABS, until Jan. 30 at Magnet Gallery Paseo, until Jan. 30 at Magnet Gallery Kazipuran, and until Jan. 15 at the CR Gallery at Magznet Café, Katipunan, For details, call 929-3191 or 435-2631

The Metropolican Museum of Manila brings back the successful exhibit Artes at Anglish. The exhibit tooks into the passions and preoccupations of 19th century affluent Mania society. Among the Artworks and objects on view are rarely exhibited harr-embroidered landscapes attributed to Adelaida Paremo, and paintings by Juan Lura, Felix Resurrecdon Hidaigo and early woman painter Paz Paterno. The exhibit runs at the Catwalk gallery until February, For details, call 523-0613.

Music

Jason Miraz Live in Manila, Acoustic rock artist jason Mraz will perform on Jan. 21 at Rockwell Tent. and on Jan. 21 at the NBC Tent to promote his secand album, "Mr. A-Z," distributed by Warner Music Philippines, Tickets available at all SM Tickernet outlets.

Par Upton of Spiral Starecase returns to Manila to sing his hits in the '70s like "More Today Than Yeazerday" and "Broken Hearted Man." Joining him In the concert is 'The Cascades' vocalist Gabe La-



pano. Opening the show are The Song Masters (composed of Tito Cayamanda, Velstie Saturno, Noney Tan and A scene from

" Paalaman sa Calemba" from the UP Playwrights' Theatre

Mon del Rosario) and the Ramon "Rf" jacinto. The shows are stated on Jan. 20 at the Aliw Theater, CCP Complex, Jan. 21 at the Manile Hotal Centernial Baliroom and Jan. 22 at Waterfront Hotel. Lahug, Cabu. Tickets avadable at Ticketworld, Nabonal Bookstores, Tower Records, Ayala Malk Box Office and Robinsons.

On Jan. 21, Kuh Ledesma together with special guests Busil Vadez, Christian Bautista, Dulce, Pilita

Corvales and harpist Noelle Cassandra reunite at the PICC for a repeat of maton, a tribute to the lase songwriter George Carseco. For tickers, call 551-7255 or 551-6296.

Onstage Repertory Phaippines

opens its 2006 season on Jan. 20 with Nobody's Perfect, a comedy by Simon Williams about a single father who is not sure how to handle his teenaged daughter who has a mind of her own. He also has to deal with his septuagementan father who refuses to be consigned to a home for the aged. The play features Miguel Faustmann, Ana Bitting, Char-Se Barredo, and Bonggoy Manahan. Performances are on Fridays and Saturdays at 8 p.m., Saturdays and Sundays at 3:30 p.m. until Feb. S at Rep's Globe Theater at Onstage, Greenbelt 1. Call 887-0710 for tickets and information. Tickets available at Tickerworld at 8919999

Actor's Actors lite.'s production of the Broadway musical Once On This Island goes back onstage at the Carlos P. Romolo Theaner on Jan. 20, 21, 22 and Feb, 3, 4 and 5 at 8 p.m. with 3 p.m. marinee performances on Sundays. The musical under Bart Guingons's direction will once again star Bituin Escalante, Menchu Lauchengco-Yulo, Michael Williams and Jett Pangan as the gods of a mythical island of peasants and aristocrats. Tickets are available at Ticketworld outlets (tel. 891-9999).

The UP Playwrights' Theatre showcases three masterpleces of the late Severino Montano -- Sabina, The Ladles and the Senator and Poolonier as Calamba (Parting at Calamba). "Sabina" is about a young farm girl whose family reproaches her for having a relationship with an American businessman. "Parting at Cajamba" is an episode in Jose Rizal's Ma. "The Ladies and the Senator" is a comedy about a Filipino senator visiting the US through an Invitation of the Filipino Women's Club of Washington, DC, The plays will run from jun. 18-29 at the Teatro Harmogenes Ylegan, UP Dilimin, Quezon Clty, For Inquiries, call Dubang UP at 926-1349 and 920-5302 loc. 6441

Tanglishing Pilipino welcomes the new year with bughter as it stages two one-act comedy plays-Goe-Goo at Waterins and Welcome to Intelstar, "Geo-Goo at Waterina" is a bittersweet

cale about acceptance and rejection, humility and pride, ioneliness and friendship, lots of money and a young man with a big beautiful smile. "Welcome to intelstar" is an amusing and light-hearted look at people who work in the linancially rewarding but rather cyclic world of call centers. Schedule of performances are Jan. 20, 21, 27, 28 at 8 p.m. Jan. 21, 22, 28, 29 at 3 p.m. at the CCP Tanghalang Huseng Bansta. For details, call 832-1125 local 1620 and ,621 (Yuesdays to Fridays).

Atbp

Tanghalang Plipino announces open auditions for four male roles to play in a Filipino production of "Waiting for Godot" to be directed by visiting Franch director Alam Timar Auditions will be held on lan, 23 and 24 from 4 to 9 p.m. Interested parties may call Tanghatang Pilipino at 832-3661 or 832-1125 locals 1620/1621 to register and to find out the audition venue. The director is looking for mate actors 20-35 years old. They must present a monologue or a scene for two of their choice from "Watung for Godot" (approximately 5 minutes); and another scene from any play of distr choice. One piece should be in English and the other in Fil-Ipino. A copy of the Filipino translation of "Waiting" may be downloaded from www.culturalcenrengoviph. All interested actors must bring a resumé and two 2 x 2" color picture.

In celebration of the 395th Foundation Day of the University of Sto. Tomes, the Advocate of Philippine Fair Trade, Inc. and The Department of Industrial Design, College of Fine Arts and Design.

will hold UST Goes Fair Trade, a week-long calebration that will highlight the concepts and principles of Fair Trade, the works of Industrial Design students, and the craftsmanship of micro-cottage artisant. There will be a Fair Trade Exhibit at the Beato Angellco Gallery, CFAD from Jan. 23 to 28. Fair Trade Colloquium on Jan. 24 at the Basto Angelico Auditorium, Fair Trade Barrair at the CFAD Lobby, Poster Making and Essay Writing Contests. For inquiries, call 454-4744/ 425-1230 or visit the website

Lou Valoso in Pillning's "Gee-Gee at Waterina"

www.apfili.org.ph.

Learn Filipino sign language at De La Salle -College of Saint Bentide. Classes will be held three hours a week for 14 weeks. Course fee is P2,400 (plus PS35 for those who do not have a OLS-CSB for Generic 1D). Please contact the Filipino Sign Language Learning Program office of the School of Deal Education and Applied Studies at 526-7441 local (3) by jan. 20 for final class schedule and additional information. Classes start jan 23

Public Presentation and Book Launching. Karl Gaspar, CSsR will present the output of his study, Mystic Wandorers in the Land of Perpetual Departures, on Jan. 28, 2.30 p.m. in Romano Hall, Backaram Chruch, Parañaque City, For details, call the Institute of Spirituality in Asta at 721-5725 or email at spirit@tri-isys.com.

<u>To Your Health</u> by Eric S. Caruncho photographs by Rodel Rotoni OCUS on yourself for the next 90 minutes," says 35-year-old yoga instructor Tristan Choa to the roomful of students standing before him. "Look at yourself in the mirror, and realize that you are looking into the eyes of your own best teacher." They have yet to flex a muscle or bend a joint, but already beads of sweat are beginning to form on the students' brows. It's not because of nervousness. The room is a sweatbox. It is meant to be: Those blowers arrayed throughout the gym Former aren't air conditioners, they're space heaters, designed to keep temperatures at a toasty 38 financial analyst degrees Celsius. Not quite the sauna people warned me about, it feels more like stepping Tristan Choa went to his first out of an air-conditioned car into a hot sum-Bikram yoga class to ogle girls. mer's day. The heated room is a unique feature of Bikram yoga, the particular style of the age-Today, after a change of heart old health system being taught here. Also known as "hot yoga," it is meant to facilitate and lifestyle, he's teaching this stretching by warming up the muscles, and promote detoxification through sweat, lots popular style of yoga in Manila In fact, it should be hotter, says Choa. In the US, the thermostat is typically set at 42 degrees, but adjustments have been made for the higher humidity in the tropics. Otherwise, the students would drop like flies. Each one carnes a large towel and a water bottle or Gatorade aside from their yoga mats; they are going to need them. Health regimen After two warm-up rounds of pranayama breathing exercises, Choa leads his students through a sequence of 26 asanas or yoga Corporate postures that stretch every muscle fiber, tendon and ligament. Ten minutes into the workout, the students are drenched in sweat. At the end of the 90 minutes, their towels are soaked and the elegant hardwood floors of the studio are glistening with droplets of sweat, but the students themselves are glowing with a new-found feeling of well-being, energy and tranquility. Hopefully, when they wake up the next morning with every muscle sore, the memory of this feeling will carry them through to the next workout. "We advocate yoga as a health regimen," says Choa as his students hit the showers. "People bring different things into the practice: some want to lose weight, some want to gain flexibility, some want to reduce stress by keeping their minds clear, some want to improve their balance because they're doing martial arts, some want to do rehab for sports injuries." All of these goals are attainable through yoga, he says, and more. To Find "I don't want us to be trendy Basically, what I'm saying is: consider us as a health regimen, without the usual mumbo-jumbo. Treat it as something that will help you regain your birthright, which is to have a straight spine even when you're 90, with your legs mobile." The other benefits will follow naturally: strength, the flexibility of a child, stress management and mental discipline. Choa is the director and owner of Bikram Yoga Manila, which opened its doors only last November Located in a posh Makati high-rise at the heart of the city's business district, it offers several classes a week for beginning yoga students. With its clean, modern interiors and predominantly yupple clientele, it is the epitome of yoga in the 21st century, a far 11 cry from its "flower power" Filipinos first discovered yoga in the wave of Eastern spirituality that became popular following the mind expansion boom of the sixties. For many, it was the next step after psychedelic drugs, a "natural high" as we used to say in those patchouli-scented days. Actually, it wasn't easy to do yoga in the old days. Changes: Choa lixed busted knees and slight scutioals through yoga

In Garudasana:
Part of the
"mainstreaming
of yoga"

Pirst, you had to be "initiated" by a scary-looking in dian dude in orange, told to stop eating meat and having set and go through a period of purification that sometimes included having to bang pots and pans in public, chanting in Sanskrit.

Selfless devotion

Doing the asanas was treated more as a chore, something to get out of the way so you could focus on the more important matter of reaching "God-consciousness" through hours and hours of meditation or selfless devotion to the guru and to Krishna.

Well, it was either that, or follow the diagrams in Richard Hittleman's yoga paperbacks that taught you how to do the "Cobra," the "Locust," and if you were adventurous enough, the Headstand, all in the privacy of your own home.

Things couldn't be more different.

Today, yoga is all about the asanas. Instead of scary-looking indian dudes in orange, you have hard bodies in spandex. Vegetarianism is still encouraged, but thankfully, nobody espouses celibacy anymore, not after Sting went public about yoga's wonderful effects on the quality of his orgasms.

In fact, the celebrity factor seems to be at the heart of the current yoga boom. Madonna does it, Oprah does it, Woody Harrelson teaches it and supermodel Christy Turlington came out on the cover of Time Magazine to promote it.

Even in Manila, the prospective yogi has different types of yoga instruction to choose from. In the age of media mass marketing, even yoga comes in brands. You have Iyengar, Ashtanga, Kundalini and now, Bikram.

The last is named after its founder, Bikram Choudhury, a flamboyant, controversial figure who is sometimes referred to in the media as "the Bill Gates of yoga" and, somewhat less flatteringly, as "yoga's bad boy." Having patented his own unique style of yoga—a move which has made his organization more streamlined, but has critics howling in protest over the seeming attempt to trademark a centuries old system of thought—Bikram now presides over a multimillion-dollar yoga empire. Like any multinational company, it operates franchises all over the world from its headquarters in Los Angeles.

Critics have zeroed in on Bikram's decidedly un-ascetic lifestyle—he hobnobs with celebrines and owns several Rolls Royces. They accuse him of selling "McYoga," a kind of homogenized, fast food version of the real thing.

But Bikram's students swear by his method's effectiveness. Many claim to have been cured of various ailments, ranging from back pain and arthritis to life-threatening illnesses such as cancer and multiple sclerosis, through the regular practice of yoga. And at a time when many students paradoxically end up injuring themselves through overenthusiastic stretching, Bikram's patented "hot yoga," students claim, seems to work in preventing the usual torn ligaments and pulled muscles

Prime example

"In general, yoga is good for you," says Choa. "You just have to find the style that fits your personality. Hopefully, people will find that Bikram yoga works for them"

Choa himself is a prime example of what he terms the "mainstreaming" of yoga. Not too long ago, this holder of an MBA from Columbia University was on the fast track to corporate success, having worked for a series of multinational companies as a financial analyst and management specialist, until he took an unexpected detour and discovered yoga.

The youngest of four sons, Choa's father was a Hong Kong native who moved to the Philippines in the 1950s, while his mother was born and bred in Bagulo City. Choa himself grew up in Manila, where he attended in Xavier School. It was more or less presumed that he was going to become a top corporate executive, and for college, he enrolled in the Industrial and Management Engineering program of Rensselaer Polytechnic, a college in upstate New York.

"I was a bit of a nerd," he recalls, "I studied six hours a day. The only thing that kept me from being a complete nerd was the fact that I did sports."

DAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE, January 15, 2006

To page

by Juan Escandor Jr. PDI Soutbern Luzon Bureau

From Control of the the to the Line

Is Now A



professional models of branded ready-to-wear apparel when RTW was just starting to make headway in the country's upscale department stores. Today, few people might recognize Ping, as the once glamorous model has settled into a quiet life at the foot of

AGA CITY-She was a top

model in the '70s and the

'80s, a sought-after face who

appeared in commercials, en-

dorsed brands) and walked

Fe "Ping" Federls, who

once wanted to be a nun, be-

longed to the first wave of

the ramp. 🔌 🗸

Mt. Isarog in Bicol and ventured into commercial organic farming. Although she still drives a silver blue Mercedes Benz around town, Ping now lives the simple life of a farm hand who finds peace of mind cultivating the good earth.

When she was in her late teens, Ping became a flight stewardess for Philippine Airlines, a job she held for only three months or so, because she landed a modeling job at Alpha Textiles. Called the "Jazzie Models," she and other models promoted ready-to-wear clothes made from Alpha Textiles.

Poster girl

A year after, she was among the ton models under director Gary Flores, who had regular shows at the top hotels of the country. Named as the top Hyatt model in 1982, she became the hotel's poster girl, promoting the hotel worldwide That exposure led to a modeling job in 1983 for Runway and Image, two agencies based in Singapore, where she did commercial and ramp modeling for three years

At the height of Ping's modeling career she was a stunning 5'7", 110-lb woman who graced local and international fashion magazines. With her flawless tanned skin, she did nudes without hesitation

Ping had a fleeting moment with Billy Moses, the star of the '80s TV hit series "Falcon Crest." The couple graced the cover and inside pages of Male Review, the fashion magazine for men. Ping's photos were also regularly featured in Her World magazine, Singapore's best-selling women's magazine, as she endorsed a variery of garments and skin-care products.

Several months before the downfall of the Marcos dictatorship, Ping decided to visit friends In the Philippines. She met Aureo Alonso, a top designer in the '80s, who invited her to join Piesta Pilipina in Europe, a tourism blitz promoting Filipino culture and fashion. "I did not hesitate. I said 'yes' even as I had already committed myself to work in Japan," says Ping. She canceled her Japan sojourn and stayed with friends in Manila, rehearsing for the show in Europe and accepting other projects on the side, "I chose Europe

over Japan because there's Paris, She was a top the place to break into international modeling," she explains model in the 1980s, until two

failed relationships

iliness derailed her

career. Now, Ping

Federis finds peace

of mind running an

Camarines, where

she also advocates

organic farm in

healthy living

and a serious

Ultimately lost

But Ping's chance to get to Europe for an international modeling career was lost when the Marcoses

were driven out from power. She went back to Naga City to calm herself and decided to pursue a business administration course at



CONTRIBUTED PHOTOS

the Ateneo de Naga University.

JUAN ESCANDOR JR.

Ping did not make it. She was unable to enroll for the last semester because of a debilitating lung illness. She had to stay home most of the time. "I felt sore ail, over," she says, dragging on her cigarette. 'I felt like I was dying and I could not sleep flat on the bed," She eventually recovered from pulmonary embolism.

The illness was a huge setback for this fourth child of landed parents of Spanish-Chinese descent in Naga City. Ping grew up the center of attention in a protected and sheltered environment, being the only girl among six siblings. She found herself constantly surrounded by men and not just in the family but by choice, enjoying verbal skirmishes with them.

But Ping saw herself zapped of energy after two successive failed relationships. She had a son each with the two men. "But that's water under the bridge now. We're on good terms and celebrate Christmas together," she adds.

Her illness prompted her to go back to her roots and continue the legacy of her deceased parents, that is, to nurture the estate that brought them the good life. She also surmised that she would find peace by communing with nature. When she took over as administrator of the 40-hectare Federis estate in Magarao, Camarines Sur, she decided to go into organic vegetable farming production to advocate a healthy diet. It was another way to raise people's consciousness about healthful living, she adds.

Iranstormation

After three years, her farming venture is just about ready to hit the Metro Manila market next year. Her hard work has borne fruit, says this organic farmer whose day starts before sunrise and ends at dusk. Her responsibilities Include troubleshooting everything from smoothing out relationships among farm workers, to taking care of the backlog in the production schedule. On weekends, Ping visits her friends, most of them male lawyers, and engages them in rough talk and some good old-fashioned singing in a watering hole in a nearby subdivision.

From all indications, Ping's transformation from top ramp model to farm hand is now complete, as she is known to the famthes of her second generation form workers simply as Ping Federis, the landlady. In fact, this former svelte model has ballooned to 150 lbs, but says she cares less about her appearance and more about living

a life with no restric-

tions. She has not totally turned her back on the modeling industry, however. When time permits and the situation demands it, Ping helps develop local talents and modeling consultants. "It's a recurring itch that I cannot always resist, because it's been part of my system," she says.

Glamor piri: Magazine spreads during her days as a lep Hobern

THE AMERICAN THE CONTROL OF STATE OF ST

SUNDAY INQUIRER MAGAZINE, January 15, 2006

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HE very idea crackles with the unleashed energies of those battling that prime scourge of the creative: boredom. This was how Arnold Arre came to think of what it would be like to see a tikbalang, that strange, horse-headed denizen of Filipino folklore, taking a purposeful stroll down modern Metro Manila streets. "In 1993, to escape the humdrum of ad agency life, I began doing a series of sketches in between projects. They were simple drawings of tikbalangs and engkantos in modern settings like Edsa and Makati. I don't know of any other reason except that they were fun to draw," the 34-year-old Arre explains.

That spark of an idea transfigured itself into "The Mythology Class," an ambitious four-issue comic book series that cleverly wove together adventure, friendship, romance and a taste for Filipino legends, published by pi-

oneering Alamat Comics in 1999. Now, for the first "The Mythology Class" is available in a spe cial collected edition from Adarna House's Anino imprint, with Arre making revisions and additions. An entirely new audience will

be able to enter Arre's world of quirky heroes and witty magical beings—in a battle to save terrestrial existence as we know it, of course-through this 350-page tome.

Along the way, Arre has grown comfortably into the role of visual visionary. His distinctive, accessible art and dialogue-heavy plotting continues to grow stronger. In fact, he just represented the Philippines at the World Comic Convention in Bucheon, Korea. "What's great about meeting artists from all over the world is that you get to see the cultures that influenced their work. You also get to share ideas about the comic industry in general and how it is changing. All in all, it was a great conference. I got to see Seoul and taste authentic kimchi," he says. Love of movies

A very visual person since his childhood, Clem Arnold Lawrence Arre is the son of an engineer and a literature teacher; this diversity in disciplines is further reflected in Arre's siblings, a college professor and an architect. "I loved collecting comics and talking about them with friends in school or at home, but at that time I was already confident with my skills," he recalls. That's why Arre thought that he was fated to become a filmmaker. But after a failed attempt at making a film in high school, Arre changed plans, electing to hone his drawing skills instead. "I came to love the medium of comics again and it has never changed since. I still apply my influences in film when I'm imagining panels or scenes so my love of movies is still there."

After earning his Fine Arts degree from the University of the Philippines in 1994, Arre worked as a freelance artist and designer, ultimately working for foreign clients and a succession of big advertising agencies. "I began looking for comics that dealt with the topic of Philippine mythology but I couldn't find any except for children's books. I felt a need to retell Philippine mythology, and that's what started it all," Arre

recalls. "So I dec.ded to make my own comics, but it would take me four more years before I would actually sit down and flesh out the entire book."

Aside from the mythological elements, Arre added the barkada aspect by thinking up a colorful group of youthful protagonists. "I missed college life during that time so one idea was to give the story a little bit of the experiences I had with my friends in UP. The story just wrote itself from that moment on."

The best part

That souring story centered on UP anthropology student Nicole Lacson, a girl who holds a passionate love for Filipino myths passed down from her grandfather, Together with a charmingly motley assortment of companions, she meets the mysterious Mrs. Enkanta and races to recapture the escaped

enkantos in the human world. "The Mythology Class" attracted critical praise, and also opened the eyes of many Filipmos to the changing landscape of local comic books.

"It's really a nice feeling, being able to do your own version of stories that have been passed on for centuries. It would be a shame if all these are lost, so this was my way of preserving these stories that make up our culture and identity and retell them to this present generation. I frequently get letters from readers saying that I've managed to pique their interest in Philippine mythology. For me that's the best part "

Arre won a Manila Critics Circle Book Award for "The Mythology Class" and for his one-shot, the future tale "Trip To Tagaytay." He continued to expand his horizons with a full-length graphic novel, "After Eden," in 2002 Aside from exhibits, Arre also collaborated with other talents, including a turn as arrist for Gerry Alanguilan's ("Wasted") take on "Mars Ravelo's Lastikman." Out of oil that work, Arre planted his own flag in the field by establishing Tala Studios. The studio takes its name from the ethereal, flying messenger from

Mythology Class." Arre's partner in Tala Studios is artist/graphic designer Cynthia Bai zon. They met back in college, when Arre would see her in the corridors. "I never really got to know her better," he says. "I got the chance in 1997 during the ilease of the Eraserhead 'Fruitcake' book which she beautifully illustrate ed. To be honest I fe to bit infimidated by he. fatent when I saw her work two kept in touch even Bauzon had to leave t New York for two years and her return, the two became and to eventually marrying. "I would say that she taught me a great deal in terms of illustrating and graphic design. I'm a better artist now because of her."

New perspective

Working on "The Mythology Class" after so many years was like "opening a time capsule" as Arre's style had developed quite a bit since the series first came out. "It's because I felt as if I've spent so much energy in writing, drawing and releasing the original version back in '99 that I decided to take a break and write other stories. There's no doubt in my mind that I would eventually reease a collected edition, but I was so fired back then that I just wanted to enjoy the thought that my hard work is out there and finally being read. Also, the pause gave me a chance to see the book from a new perspective since I'll be looking at it as a reader and not as an artist."

Aside from the DVD style extras included in the new edition such as prelimmary sketches and promotional art, Arre redid some of the pages. "There's more interaction now between the characters. Also we get a glimpse inside Mrs. Enkanta's world. We get to see more of the mystic house and how the enkantos are related to it. I changed some of the scenes that for me seemed rushed."

For those enchanted by the events of "The Mythology Class," Arre has a welcome revelation. More may be on its way, "A sequel maybe, I'm not really sure. Maybe a spin-off." Those ideas remain in the future for now. Immediately in Arre's sights are sveeral book pro-

"The first is a compilation of short stories/comics I've done or contributed to anthologies. The second one is a youth-oriented story; imagine 'After Eden' set in Manila minus the fantasy elements. For the third one, I'm choosing one of our classic stories-I'm thinking either 'Florante at Laura,' 'Ibong Adarna,' or maybe 'El Fili' -and setting it in present day Manila. This one is tricky since ! have to retain the essence of these classics while giving it a contemporary edge. And finally the one that I'm really

'non-spandex,'" Open to adventure

So are these new endeavors moving away from the mythological elements found in Arre's best known work? "With the book I plan to release next, I would say yes. Actually it really depends on how I treat the story and the mood I'm m. Sometimes I feel like going back to exploring or even expanding on what I've learned about Philippine mythology then there are days when I feel that those ideas can wait."

As he pushed forward on his own quest of finding new dimensions to explore, Arnold Arte exults "The Mythology Class" finally reentering print and taking its place among the important works in Philippine comic books, one that is once again open to adventurous young readers. "It's a chance for me to share my work with new readers to let them find out that there's more to our myths than they think. For those who read the original version, I want them to feel like they're meeting old friends."

For more information, log on to http://www.arnold-arre.com



Risa...from page !

HOSE who've seen Akbayan party list representative Risa Hontiveros-Baraquel link arms with movie actress Susan Roces and former President Cory Aquino in protest rallies might have wondered if the collective moral force of three grieving widows would be enough to topple the present administration.

After all, Pilipinos love and support the underdog. As upright widows who bravely took on the interrupted mission of their husbands, Roces and Aquino became themselves heroines, underdogs transformed into sym-

bols who could do no wrong.

But Risa is no political widow, her husband Frank Baraquel being a police superintendent who succumbed to a heart attack due to severe asthma in May last year. He was only 43

Still, widowhood seems to have invested Risa the necessary gravitas to take on the heavy mantle of political leadership. Baraquel's death, she admits, has relieved her of the pressures that come from balancing respect and deference for her husband's position as a member of a government institution, with her very public role as a political figure exposing that government's excesses.

She recounts: "Every time I talk about the justeng issue and the alleged involvement of the Arroyos in the illegal numbers game, (First Gentleman) Mike Arroyo would send word to him." Her husband respected her principles and sometimes even shared them, says Risa, but he worked for the government after all, and she constantly worried about his job. This time, she can be bolder, she adds. "They can't touch him anymore."

But they can touch her now, and they do, Risa says ruefully. "I value the friendships I've made with Frank's colleagues in the Philippine National Police, but things are different now that he's gone." In one of those rallies where Risa again took on the role of a patient negotiator-a carry-over of her former position as part of the government panel in peace talks with the leftist National Democratic Front (NDF)-a plainsclothesman materialized from the ranks of the police and suddenly grabbed her by the wrist, as if to arrest her. It was one of the few times when she lost her cool, she admits. She screamed at the man "Sino ka? Ano'ng karapatan mong hulihin ako? Nasan ang name tag mo? May arrest warrant ka ba? (Who are you? How dare you arrest me? Where's your name tag? Your arrest warrant?)" she remonstrated When the man melted back into the police line, Risa made straight for the commanding officer to demand the man's identity, but the officer was evasive. In the end, says Risa, the police charged her and several others in court. "We were unarmed and rallying peacefully but they dispersed us violently with water cannons. And they had the temerity to file charges against us, their victims!" The PNP has gone from bad to worse, she adds, "under the illegal and unconstitutional orders of GMA."

Recent loss

Though Risa is not about to milk the grieving widow image, her recent loss seems to have transformed her overnight into an opposition figure to reckon with. For the longest time, detractors have raised questions about her looks, class origin and choice of marriage partner. What's a tall, fair mestize-a confessed petiburges married to a police officer-doing representing farmers, fisherfolk and the urban poor in Congress, people ask.

Marching with them on the streets and facing down water cannons for a start, that's what.

Ana Theresia Hontiveros Baraquel may not look the part, but she certainly walks the talk as one of three representatives of the broad-based coalition Akbayan, says fellow partylist representative Etta Rosales.

"Her heart has always been with the marginalized and underrepresented sectors of society," says this Deputy Minority Floor Leader on why the party chose the softspoken Risa as one of their nominees to the House of Representatives in the 2004 elections.

The young widow, who retains the fragile air of a sheltered colegiala, is far from being one, says Rosaies. "In fact, she took a boat to the middle of nowhere in Palawan with members of an indigenous tribe to see for herself Danding Cojuangco's pearl farms that are being contested by fisherfolk. Then she delivered a privilege speech challenging Cojuangco's claims in a House teeming with his allies and relatives."

She's also very straightforward, observes Rosales, and would name names even when attacking the powersthat-be. She recalls how Risa questioned the Arroyo lands in Negros, whose distribution under the agrarian reform program has been delayed, even when seated right behind her was GMA son and Pampanga Rep. Mikey Arroyo.

When then Cardinal Joseph Ratzinger issued a letter condemning feminism, Risa, a member of the feminist group Pilipina, proved quick on the draw and delivered a privilege speech taking on the Catholic church's antiquated views on women. Other politicians might tiptoe around the church, a perceived powerbroker in these parts, but not Risa, chordes Rosales, who adds that when Ratzinger became Pope Benedict XVI, the outspoken representative got a lot of ribbing from her House colleagues about the possibility of her being excommunicated

Risa has learned to take the initial doubts and skepticism in stride, including charges of her being "a clericofascist pseudo-social democrat" sleeping with the socalled enemy that some personalities from the extreme Left regularly level at her, "Well, I can't change my class origin, my looks or my marriage," shrugs this Ateneo Social Sciences graduate who, being an accomplished singer, once graced the stage as one of the Von Trapp children in the Repertory presentation of "The Sound of Music." Besides, she adds, "Class origin is not the deter-



Girl power Risa with daughters (from left) Sinta, lanna and Issa; (below) with Frank and son Kiko in El Nido Palawan, summer of 2005

mining factor in one's life. What's more important are the common human values that help us overcome political differences towards conflict resolution."

Though some still fault her for being too fair and smooth-skinned to represent the deprivations that sunburnt farmers and fishers regularly go through, Risa's looks, in fact work in their favor, observes Rosales. "Her candor is balanced by her gentle approach," she adds. "She's very sweet so people don't take offense easily and she can get away with a lot of

Admits Risa: "I'm calm and soft-spoken by nature. I deliberately stay away from painful words and strive to put things in a way that won't do violence to the other person without sounding self-righteous. It's part of my political discipline." Before a possible confrontation, she takes a few minutes to pray, then takes a deep breath and wades in. "My main objective is to stay standing and focus on what needs to be done?

Highest expression

Rusa's activism started when she was in Junior high school at the St. Scholastica's College, when she organized the Nuclear Disarmament Group, *Some of my mentors were national democrats," she recalls. From the nuclear issue, she became interested in liberation theology, "although even then, I did not share the view that armed struggle and revolution was the highest expression of political commit ment. It was not for me."

She had just entered the Ateneo in 1983 "prepared to become a teacher, researcher and writer," when former Sen. Benigno Aquino was assassinated The ferment that followed saw her getting involved with non-government groups and imbibing the politics of

"My parents were initially apprehensive about us joining rallies," says Risa of her five younger siblings, broadcast journalist Pia Hontiveros among them. But martial law politics was something that her dad, lawyer Ramon Hontiveros, and fulltime homemaker mom had been quietly discussing with their peers around the dinner table even before 1983, and it wasn't long before they themselves joined their four daughters and two sons in the parliament of the streets. "You know how it was-there was curfew, and my parents' friends would stay in and they'd discuss politics, while us kids peered and listened from between the stairs' balustrade," recounts Risa. So even as an elementary student at the elite International School, she knew what was happening, she adds.



Alongside the activism that saw her joining Coalition for Peace, Pilipina, Pandayan and Akbayan, Risa did parallel work with media-from acting onstage to broadcasting to TV hosting. *Developing culture should be part of our struggle," she notes. "The arts is part of our deepest expression and recreation of ourselves. It's always been part of our political culture." No wonder she thoroughly enjoyed-as part of the protest rallies against GMA's alleged election fraud-the launch of the "Wag Kang Manggo-Gloria" CD in a concert at Plaza Miranda in Ouiapo. *Sometimes when I get so exasperated with politics, I teli myself, balik na lang ako sa teatro (I'd better get back to theater). I'd like to travel with a band, compose songs... It's like opening a new door for me or another window of opportunity."



Jose de Venecia into another term because it was the party position," she says-she has realized that she's actually enjoying the experience. "I really love this life," confesses Risa, "It constantiy challenges me to understand and analyze things, to see how I can participate-to witness and to remember." She also lives the creed that she heard columnist Randy David quote from political scientist Al Thusser. "He said that it is important for us to establish combat positions within the state." Of course, she adds, her stay in the political arena would depend strongly on her party's decision.

'Troubled relationship'

Her relationship with other party list groups could be better though, says Risa. "It's a troubled relationship," she admits. Although they all purport to represent the interest of the masses, "some parties still look at us as competitors." While they occasionally unite for tactical reasons, "there's a very strong sense of vanguardism, the feeling that only they have the correct vision and the right answers. I respect their views, but I fear that if they take power, they'd line us up against the wall and shoot us."

She's turning 40 this year and that's something she looks forward to, says Risa. "I was happier in my thirties than in my twenties. Now that I'll be 40 and presumably wiser, who knows what better things await me? I've earned every year and every line on my face, so I'm not afraid of growing older."

But she sorely nosses her husband, and expects a quiet year ahead. "We want to go through the whole mourning process, the period of grief, and not miss out on anything," she says of her family, now composed of son Kiko, 13, and daughters Issa, 10, Ianna, 9, and Sinta, 4. She and Frank had been married for almost 15 years, and she had always discussed her decisions with him, says Risa. "Now I still talk to him before a major decision and I feel he's there, listening," she says of the PMAer who saw her picture in her school yearbook and was immediately smitten. He wrote her and she responded, and ended up as his date during the Philippine Military Academy's graduation hop, but only because by then, his commander-in-chief, President Marcos, had been ousted in the first People Power revolt

When she's not in the session hall, Risa's probably with her kids visiting Frank at Himlayang Pilipino, or at Planet Dive, the dive resort she, her husband and several friends built in Batangas. Or probably burying her head in an Isabel Allende or Julia Alvarez novel

If she had one free day, she'd spend part of it doing one thing that her children would like to do, then splurge the rest on herself, says Risa. "I'd wake up early... No, I think I'd sleep late. Then I'll have breakfast alone, read a book, watch a movie, listen to

beautiful music, walk.

No! dance in the

rain. Go out of

the house .. or

is it better to

stay in, for a

In fact, he had rulned both knees playing socces, undergoing surgery in one knee for a torn meniscus and in the other to drain fluid build-up

After graduation, Choa returned home to work for a German trading company, but after a couple of years, he experienced an early midhfe crisis. Out of the blue, he decided to become a chef.

"I quit my job and started cooking for Ilustrado Restaurant, which was owned by family friends," he says. Although he was largely self-taught in the culinary arts, Choa soon learned to bake and make desserts, even cooking for King Juan Carlos of Spain during his state visit to the Philippines.

Corporate life

Eventually, however, he decided to return to the corporate life, enrolling in Columbia University in New York City for his MBA.

"I had been indoctrinated that eventually, I would become an investment banker," he says. "But after graduation, I realized that I didn't have the personality of an investment banker, where it's all about the money. I had another midlife crisis."

After a stint in Hong Kong, Choa found a job with a British insurance firm, which posted him in Bangkok. It was there that a friend casualty invited him to try a class in Bikram yoga.

"To be candid, what got me interested was the fact that in Thailand, because it's hot, the girls wear minimal clothing," he recalls. "But you can only look at them for so long, so after a while, I started focusing on the yoga."

Without realizing it, Choa started to reap the benefits. Not only did the practice rehabilitate his knees and correct his slight scoliosis, he soon discovered that he was more patient, less stressed out.

"The postures were always a challenge, but I had more stability," he says. "The improvements came quickly. I could feel my body changing. Physically, I became more lithe, I became stronger."

Unconsciously, the seed had been planted in his mind that this was something that could take off in Manila. His faith in Bikram's method was reinforced during a short stint in Singapore where there was no Bikram yoga studio. Choa tried other types of yoga, such as Ashtanga, but found that it didn't work for him as well as Bikram, so he returned to his old practice.

Own terms



Choa leads a class through pranayama breathing exercises





Guru: With Bikram

Choudhury himself

after finishing his

teacher training

By the time his contract was up for renewal, Choa had serious misgivings about the life of the corporate expat executive. He wanted to return home, but that would mean a drastic pay cut. After a period of soul searching, the idea of putting up his own yoga studio emerged

"I decided that if I returned to Manila, it would be on my own terms," he said

But that was easier said than done. In order to open his own yoga studio, Choa first had to be certified as a teacher. This meant undergoing a grueling two-month teacher training program in Los Angeles, under the tutelage of no less than Bikram Choudhury himself.

"It was nine weeks of training, attending two classes a day," he recalls. "In between we had lectures on anatomy, the philosophy of yoga and the Bikram series. It was a yoga boot camp. Three weeks into it, I was sick of yoga."

as sick of yoga."
But he persisted, and in Decem-

ber 2004, Choa was finally certified. He began a period of internship in the Ann Arbor, Michigan Bikram Yoga Studio, honing his reaching skills for three months, before returning home to Manila, having persuaded two fellow teachers to come with him to open the first Bikram Yoga Studio in the Philippines.

"All of my savings are here." he

"All of my savings are here," he says of the studio. "It's still untested, because yoga has been here for decades, but not m any mainstream sort of way. At the end of the day, it's still a business, because if it's not viable, it will close down. Hence, we have to do everything that any busi-

ness does, such as build awareness."

And its practice might just change you in ways more than physical. Ask Tristan Choa

For inquiries, contact Bikram Yoga Manila at tel. no. 889-1011 or search www.bikramyogamanila.com



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Where You Find The Best

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T WAS one of those nights when sleep wouldn't come to Philippine National Police Director-General Arturo Lomibao.

And now here he was, the chief of the country's national police, trying to catnap while flying to Dipolog City, wondering what le would tell the President if his worst fears came true.

This was the day he would meet the man his people had told him was Kumander Putol of the Abu Sayyaf, supposedly captured in Zamboanga-Sibugay after years of manhunt, a bandit with a huge bounty on his head, wanted both in the Philippines and in the United States.

Director Lomibao had taken me with him on this flight to help him find out if the trophy he had was genuine. After all, I had known Putol (real name-Radulan Sahiron) well, having interviewed him several times since I first met him in 1992.

The day before, a Sunday, Lomibao had called President Macapagal Arroyo to tell her they had their quarry. She immediately announced the capture to the nation

News source

Hours before Ms Arroyo went on television, while I was on my way to Olongapo chasing the story of a Filipino woman allegedly raped by US Marines, I got a call from a police major who had been a long-time news source. We hadn't been in touch for months.

"Would you recall which arm of Radulan Sahiron was amputated?" he asked. "Was it the right or the

The journalist in me sensed a big story was in the wind. Why, all of a sudden, would he call to ask

about Sahiron's missing arm? "For records and profiling purposes only, I'm building a profile on Sahiron," said the major.

I was incredulous. "Have you got him?" "Oh, c'mon, Arlyn, you just want a scoop. You know I would call you if there is one. Just tell me, right or left?"

I told him I thought it was the right arm.

But he wasn't done.

Does he speak Tagalog well? Is he fat?

That really hit me. Could they have really got one of a group of five Abu Sayyaf leaders wanted by the most powerful country in the world for \$5 million?

I said Saluron was not fluent in Tagalog but was a

Minutes later, my cellphone rang again. It was a respected, retired general.

*Can you help me? This is urgent," the almost hysterical voice said, "I can't contact Art (Lomibao). Did he change phone numbers? I must speak to him AS-AP because we just got him 30 minutes ago!"

You mean Sahiron? I said "How did you know? My men just got him and Art

doesn't know yet!"

I told him about the call I just got. "Okay, just forward to me the new number of Art if you have it so he would be briefed about this arrest," the voice said

It turned out that Lomibao was airborne at the time. Thirty minutes after the ex-general rang off, I was talking with Lomibao.

From him I learned that an elite team had bagged "Sahiron."

"But there will still be a debriefing. Maybe Monday, the President will announce it," he said. "It's Boogle (Sr. Supt. Rodolfo Mendoza), the ground commander, whom you should congratulate."

Soon, I heard Ms Arroyo on radio announcing the

In Olongapo, I pursued my other story, fluding fresh leads about the rape, dismayed to hear that

I crossed the country's three regions to pursue a story about a bandit wanted by the most powerful country in the world. I ended up with the story of a one-armed villager whose only excess was a passion for cocklights

"politics inside the Subic Bay Freeport" was playing a role in the case

The morning after, I found out I had several missed calls from the Chief PNP, and text messages, too. A Lomibao aide took my return call.

"I was told to ask you if you want an exclusive interview with Sahiron," the aide began. "It has to be now, in Dipolog, we're leaving at 10, PAL flight

I said I couldn't make it to Manila on

"A PNP chopper will fetch you. Just tell me where you want to be picked up," he said. "This really has to be done, Arlyn... It's a big favor, Chief PNP says."

I sensed they had called me not for a one-on-one with Sahiron but to make an identification. My mind was racing-They must have the wrong guy.

Half an hour later, a chopper was whirring down Subic airport. I was the lone passenger. It flew me straight to the domestic hangar of the PNP in Metro Manila Then I was whisked off to the Centennial Airport for the flight to Dipolog.

Lomibao was a man who talked straight.

"I couldn't sleep," he said. "I have thus nagging thought in my head that the team there in Mindanao got the wrong man because they could not give me the answer to one question.

"All I asked was: Has he admitted that he is Radulan Sahiron? Paliguyligoy (They were evasive). I have to see for myself, and I wanted you to come because you can't be wrong since you have known him a long time. It is not the time to wrangle about whether it was his right or left arm that was amputated. It's the man's face that would

Different look

With Lomibao was Director Simeon Dizon, intelligence directorate chief.

I was told an officer on Mendoza's team had texted Dizon, saying the man they had arrested looked different from a Sahlron photo shown on late night news Saturday

I could sense that Lomibao, who had kept his eyes closed during the flight although I knew he was awake, was already thinking what he could do if it turned out they made a mistake.

On touchdown in Dipolog I climbed into a pickup. Mendoza jumped in, too. He said the PNP's role was simply to execute the arrest quickly to preclude any



chance of "the target" escaping.

He introduced me to our driver, whom he said had been a trusted "asset" of the ex-general who desperately wanted Lomibao's number. It was that asser's perseverance that led to the arrest, Mendoza said.

The driver bragged about how they had been patient for almost two years and waited for the right time to move.

Our ride ended at a secluded hotel. PNP operatives in civilian and combat clothes milled about, looking worn

Lomibao, Dizon and Mendoza raced up to a second floor room

They insisted I go in first. Deliberately, I shut my eyes when I walked in. I wanted to make sure that when I opened them again, it would be the man whom I would see first-and

no other. There he was, sitting in a chair, a dusky man with a paunch, blindfolded,

in shorts, starkly half-naked They had deliberately taken his shirt off so I would see at once that he had only one arm. The arm no longer there

had been sawed off up to the armpit. But he was not the man I first saw in the Abu Sayyaf stronghold 13 years ago. The face was different, and this man before me had a mustache.

Of course, it was the left arm that was missing

Knowing that what I was about to say would crush the heart of every man in the room, I simply said in a low voice: "Hındi sıya si Sahıron (He is not

Refusing to accept defeat, one officer showed Lomibao a picture of Sahiron he had kept on his cellphone. He pointed to "similarities" between the face on his phone and the half-naked man.

I said, "Pango at lapad ang ilong ng taong ito. St Sahtron, matangos na mampis (This man's nose is flat and wide. Sahiron's nose is sharp and narrow).* Mendoza leaned his head on the

The other officers were dumbfounded. Quickly taking command, Lomibao said: "A mistake is a mistake. We have to correct it by returning the man to his family. No harm done, boys... Let's all

wall. He looked suddenly exhausted.

see the positive side of this operation." The asset who drove us from the airport came forward Lomibao was Incisive. Did you ask other people, maybe the neighbors or the relatives, if this is Radulan Sahiron?

The asset said: "He is known in the area as Kumander Putol and the people call him Kumander Putol."

Lomibao pressed on: "Did you know before you became DPA (Deep Penetra-

tion Asset) if it was the right or the left arm of Kumander Putol that was amputated? Did you have a picture of him?"

The man said: "The fact is he is known as Kumander Putol and he keeps traveling. Once, we even saw him with several firearms. There were always meetings in his house.*

The driver-DPA pinned me with his eyes.

approached officer Another Lomibao and said that nothing in the debriefing indicated the man was connected to the Abu Sayyaf. He was engaged in trading and loved took der-

On a ferry taking us to Cebu for the long trip home, Lomibao called Executive Secretary Eduardo Ermita and

Ermita said: "Was It Arlyn who told you that? Baka naman na-mt-mislead kayo (Could it be that you are being misled)?"

No motive

"No, sir," Lomibao said. "Even then, we had doubts. We just needed validation and Arlyn can't be wrong. She has no motive to mislead us, Sir. I can assure you that."

Lomibao next called the President He called her several times. Her phone just kept on ringing

At around 6 p.m., while in Tagbitaran port, Lomibao finally talked to Ms Агтоуо.

"I am sorry Ma'am, but we will do better next time."

She coolly accepted the apology, I was told. No harsh words, no tantrums, no lashing of the tongue. Instead, she instructed Lomibao to make sure the fight against terror was not affected by this "setback."

I filed my report to the INQUIRER by text messages while on the boat. It had been a long, long day. I crossed the country's three regions, traveled by land, sea and air to pursue a story about a man wanted by the most powerful country in the world, only to end up with a story about a one-armed villager whose few joys in the world included betting on cockfights.

I hit the bed at 2 in the morning, several questions still ringing in my mind: What If they did not get the man alive? What if Lomibao did not entertain doubts and simply rehed on the information from field assets? What if they immediately presented the inan to the President without making the necessary verification?

Turning over in my bed, I suddenly realized I didn't even bother to ask the poor man how he lost his left arm. 🔼

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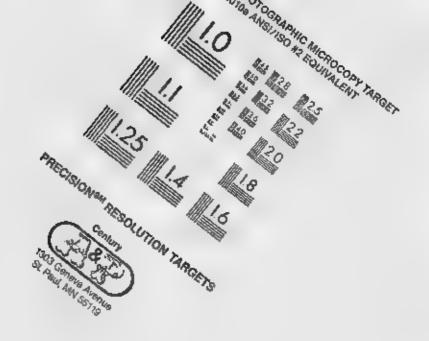
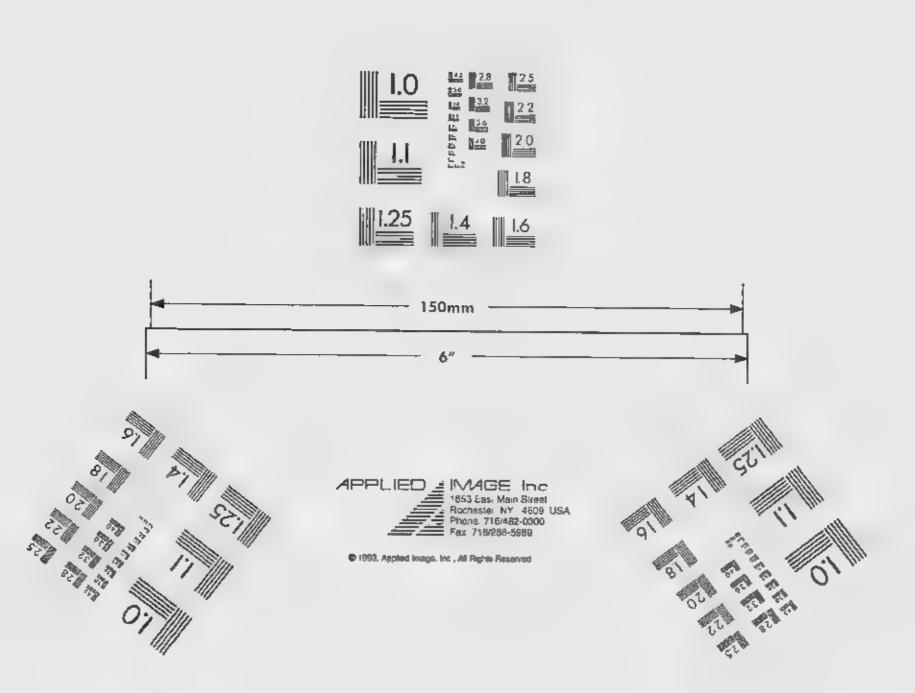
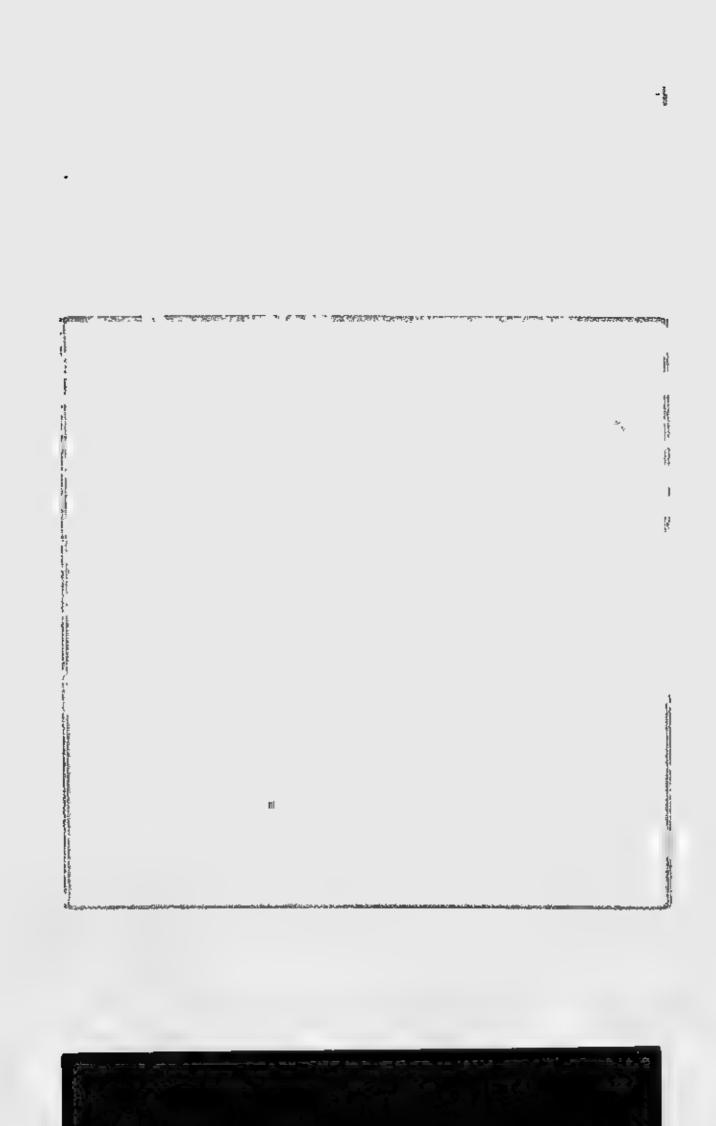


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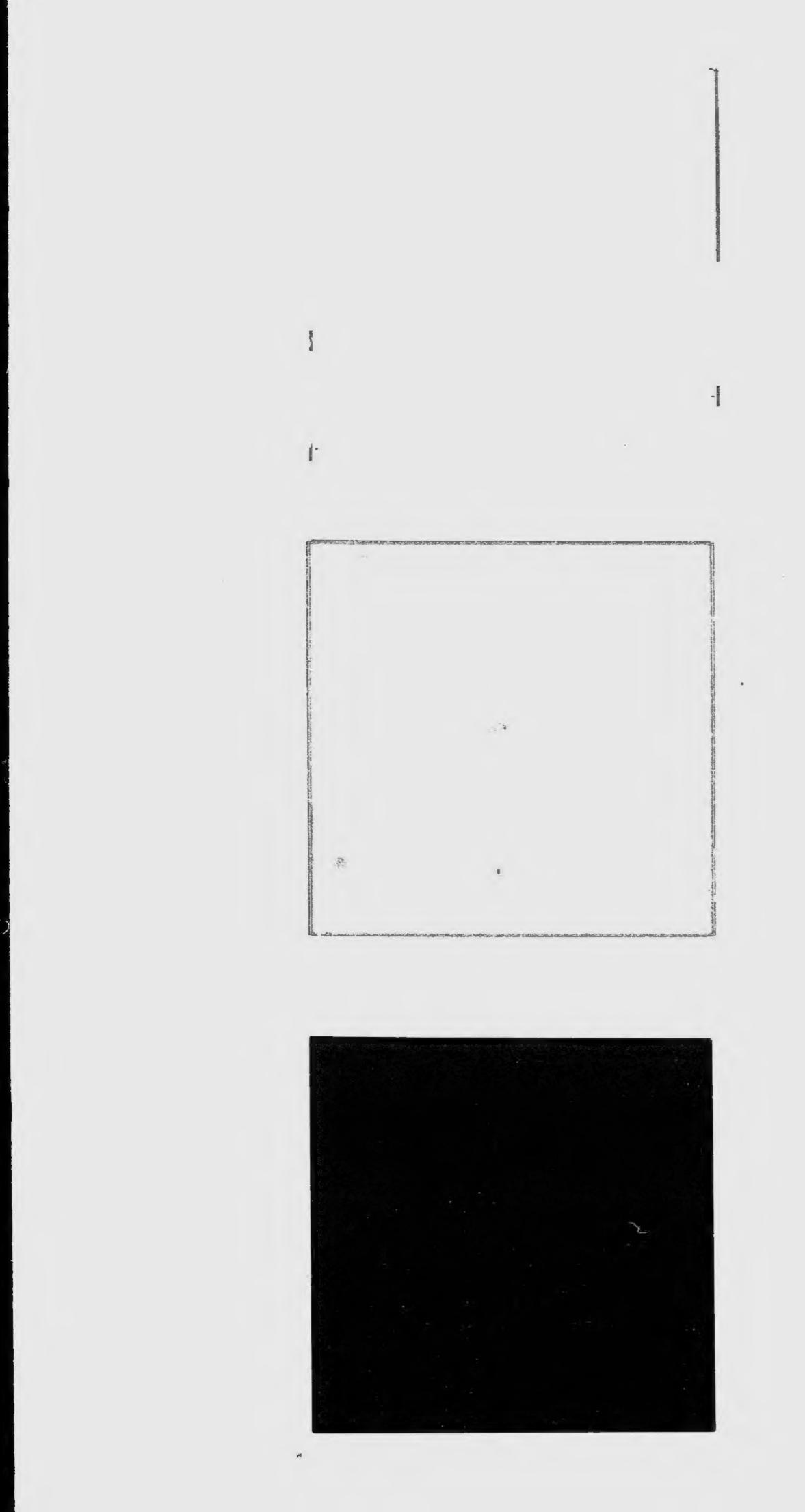


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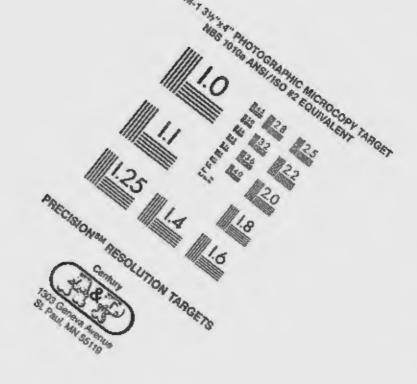
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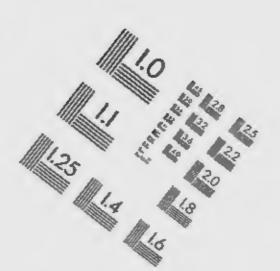


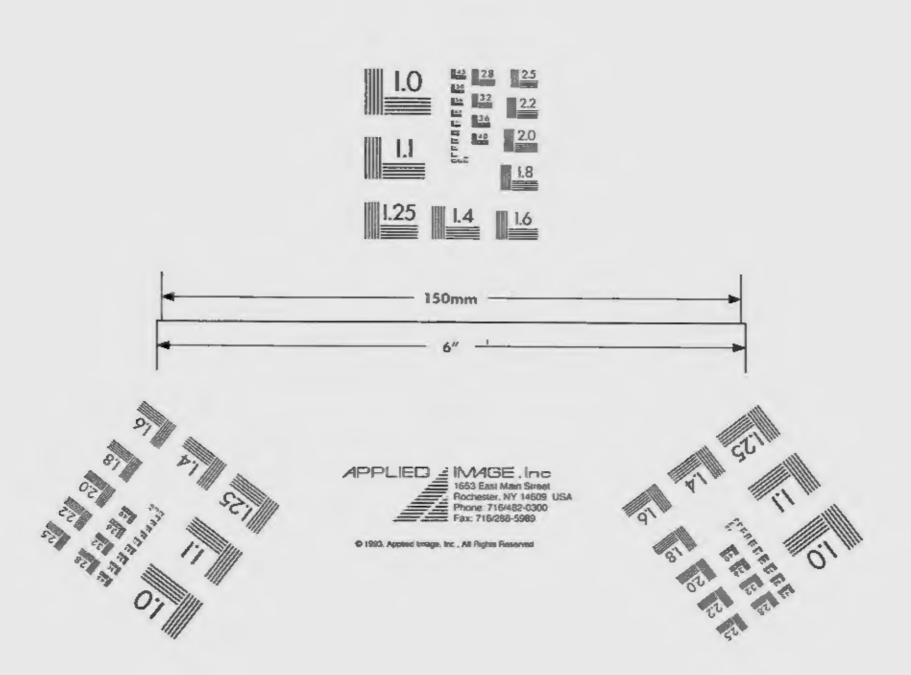
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